Hafa Adai!

Temporary ban on live poultry, hatching eggs imports continues. PAGE 2
Kilili is NMC's 2024 commencement speaker. PAGE 3

$1

Saipan Tribune

INCREASING HEALTHCARE CAPACITY NMC

Twenty-seven Northern Marianas College nursing graduates marked a milestone yesterday at their pinning and lamp-lighting ceremony, which signifies the completion of their two-year nursing education. Along with other graduates from other degree programs at NMC, the nursing students will be graduating with their Associate of Science in Nursing degrees on Friday, May 17, 2024 at the 43rd Commencement Exercise at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

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IN RESPONSE TO ALLEGED NONPAYMENT OF CHAPTER 2 TAXES

CHCC: We are looking into reports

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. says it is looking into complaints made by its employees who claim that their tax refunds are being held for nonpayment of Chapter 2 taxes.

Over the weekend, CHCC employees shared their frustrations with *Saipan Tribune* after learning that the Division of Tax and Revenue is holding back from issuing their tax refunds due to an issue regarding nonpayment of Chapter 2 taxes.

According to four CHCC

See CHCC on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Senators talk with each other after the adjournment of their special session in the Senate chamber yesterday.

DeLeon Guerrero: There's no room for lies

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said yesterday that nobody has been thrown under the bus as they're just speaking transparency and the truth.

"I never wavered from transparency and being

See LIES on Page 4

'Other businesses are struggling, at the brink of shutting down'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

San Nicolas

Even as Hyatt Regency Saipan is closing on June 30, 2024, other businesses are struggling and are at the brink of shutting down, according

See BRINK on Page 4

Man threatens CUC personnel with a gun for flagging him down

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man was arrested over the weekend for allegedly threatening a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. personnel with a gun after he was flagged down and asked to slow down.

Over the weekend, Daniel Aldan Castro was arrested for

See MAN on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION

The daily struggle of Chinese immigrants in Flushing is a far cry from the picture former President Donald Trump and other Republicans have sought to paint of them as a coordinated group of "military-age" men who have come to the United States to build an "army" and attack America.

PAGE 9

WORLD

The exodus of Palestinians from Gaza's last refuge accelerated Sunday as Israeli forces pushed deeper into the southern city of Rafah. Israel also pounded the territory's devastated north, where some Hamas militants have regrouped in areas the military said it had cleared months ago.

PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE

"Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes" reigned over the weekend box office with a $56.5 million North American opening.

PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

MARIANAS PROMOTED AT INT'L EDUCATION & CAREER KOREA 2024

MVA
The Marianas Visitors Authority promotes English study programs available in the Marianas at the 55th International Education & Career Korea 2024 on April 27 and 28 in Seoul, South Korea.

MVA
Over 10,000 people attended the 55th International Education & Career Korea 2024, with over 400 people visiting the MVA's booth.

DUE TO THREAT OF BIRD FLU

Temporary ban on live poultry, hatching eggs imports continues

To safeguard against the introduction of avian influenza H5N1—more commonly known as bird flu—to the CNMI, a temporary ban on the importation of live poultry and hatching eggs from the mainland U.S. and foreign countries is being continued.

Exceptions may be granted for poultry imports originating from Hawaii and Guam, subject to thorough review and clearance by the Department of Land and Natural Resources Animal Health division and issuance of an entry permit.

Bird flu presents a significant concern as it poses risks not only to avian populations but also to humans and other animals. This illness is typically found in large-scale poultry farms. Recent data from the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) revealed a notable increase in H5N1 cases across the mainland U.S., with over 3 million affected birds reported in confirmed infected flocks. In response, stringent biosecurity measures are being continued to protect our borders and mitigate the spread of this highly contagious virus.

For information regarding the necessary documents for clearance and the issuance of an entry permit for live poultry and hatching eggs imported from Hawaii, please contact the DLNR Animal Health division.

What can you do? Remain vigilant. If you raise poultry, closely monitor their health and promptly report any signs of illness or unexplained deaths to the DLNR Animal Health division. Reports can be submitted via email at Lauren.Cabrera.dlnr@gmail.com or by phone at (670) 256-3319.

If you come across sick or deceased wild birds, report these instances to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources Animal Health division is continuing a temporary ban on the importation of live poultry and hatching eggs from the mainland U.S. and foreign countries due to the threat of bird flu.

Man who fled CNMI to evade drug-related charges ordered detained

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered the detention of Fang Ye, a man accused of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and fled the island.

Last Friday, Manglona granted the government's motion to detain Fang Ye aka "Batu" who is accused of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and fled the island.

Fang, 41, is charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers.

Earlier this month Fang was extradited from Palau to Saipan to face the charges filed against him in federal court.

In Palau, Fang was among a group arrested in January for their involvement in the homicide of a tour guide.

Fang, through court-appointed attorney David Banes, waived the reading of the charge and his rights and entered a plea of not guilty to the charges filed against him last May 3.

Manglona, for her part, accepted Fang's plea of not guilty and scheduled a jury trial for July 9, 2024.

Fang is accused of conspiring to smuggle methamphetamine in lava lamps from California to Saipan and distribute it.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, Fang directed and coordinated the shipment from California and receipt on Saipan of the lava lamps containing methamphetamine.

Last year, the CNMI Division of Customs and Biosecurity intercepted and seized 10 lbs. of liquid methamphetamine valued at $1.8 million after inspecting two packages that contained four lava lamps at the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa.

Kilili is NMC's 2024 commencement speaker

Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan (D-MP) will deliver the keynote address at Northern Marianas College's 43rd Commencement Exercise on Friday, May 17, 2024 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

"We are thrilled and grateful that Congressman Sablan has accepted our invitation to be our commencement speaker. His commitment to our community and his work on the Hill has increased Asian-American and Pacific Islander access to higher education that has given so many of today's graduates the opportunity to earn their degrees," said class representative Gerald King-Crisostomo Jr.

Sablan, the first and only U.S. representative from the Northern Mariana Islands, began his term on Jan. 6, 2009, and has been reelected to office seven times.

Sablan brings a distinguished public service and legislative leadership record to this year's commencement ceremony.

"We are honored to have congressman Sablan share his insights and experiences with our graduates," said NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "His dedication to serving our community and his accomplishments in Congress serve as a testament to what can be achieved through hard work and perseverance."

As a member of the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce in the U.S. House of Representatives, Sablan has advocated for increased federal support for schools, healthcare facilities, and infrastructure projects within the Northern Mariana Islands. His legislative achievements have significantly impacted the quality of life and opportunities for residents of the Commonwealth.

Born on Saipan, Sablan's journey from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the halls of Congress exemplifies resilience, adaptability, and a deep commitment to public service.

"Beyond his impressive legislative record in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and workforce development, his work to increase funding for NMC and other Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) makes him an exceptional choice to inspire and address our graduating class," said Deleon Guerrero.

The commencement ceremony, which will celebrate the achievements of over 300 graduates, will bestreamed live on Northern Marianas College's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa.

For more information about the 43rd NMC Commencement Ceremony and Northern Marianas College, visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan (D-MP) will serve as the keynote speaker of Northern Marianas College's 43rd Commencement Exercise.

Over 20 entrepreneurs enhance federal contracting skills at SBDC training event

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network hosted an engaging training event titled "Federal Contracting 101" at the Northern Marianas College As Terlaje campus last Thursday, May 9, 2024. Over 20 eager entrepreneurs participated in this essential training opportunity aimed at equipping small businesses with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive in the federal contracting arena.

SGDC

Attendees pose for a group photo after completing one of two sessions of the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network Federal Contracting 101 training event.

The training, conducted in two parts, offered comprehensive insights into the intricate world of federal contracting. In the morning session, participants delved into the complexities of registering on SAM.gov, gaining valuable expertise on navigating the federal contracting procurement system. The afternoon session focused on the art of crafting effective capabilities statements, a critical component for small businesses seeking to compete for government contracts.

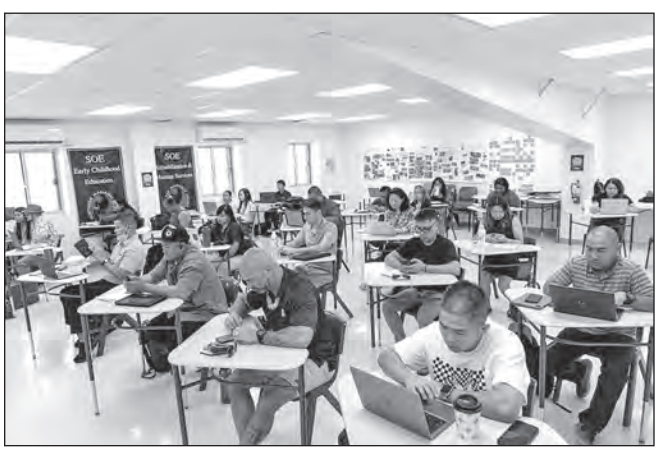
Facilitating both sessions was Glenna Sakisat Palacios, a contracted consultant with the Pacific Air Force Logistics, Engineering, and Force Protection Directorate. With her wealth of experience and expertise in federal contracting, Palacios delivered a dynamic training experience that combined instructional guidance with hands-on learning opportunities, ensuring participants gained practical skills they could immediately apply to their businesses.

The importance of federal contracting for small businesses in the CNMI cannot be overstated, especially amidst the ongoing military buildup in the region. As federal agencies increasingly turn to local businesses to fulfill their procurement needs, it is imperative for entrepreneurs to possess the knowledge and capabilities required to successfully navigate the federal contracting landscape.

"Small businesses play a crucial role in driving economic growth and development in the CNMI," said Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero, Network director of the CNMI SBDC Network. "By equipping entrepreneurs with the necessary skills to compete for federal contracts, we are empowering them to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the surrounding military buildup, thereby fostering economic resilience and prosperity in our community."

The CNMI SBDC Network remains committed to providing essential resources and support to local businesses, empowering them to thrive in today's competitive market environment. Through initiatives like the Federal Contracting 101 Training, the CNMI SBDC continues to champion the success and sustainability of small businesses in the Commonwealth.

For more information about upcoming training events and resources available through the CNMI SBDC Network, visit our website at www.cnmisbdc.com or follow us on our social media outlets on Facebook or on Instagram at @cnmisbdc. ***(PR)***



SBDC

Attendees follow along with instructor Glenna Sakisat Palacios during the How to Register in SAM.gov session.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP24-CHCC/WIC-014
(REANNOUNCEMENT)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 7TH, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – BANGLADESHI INTERPRETER

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400087

SUBMISSION DATE: May 30, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Construction of Sidewalk Extension in Tanapag along Route 30."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **April 30, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of pay-ment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **May 17, 2024, 9:00 a.m. ChST.,** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. ChST., on May 24, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP24-BECQ/DEQ-42400092

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 10, 2024
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO CONDUCT CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT TRAINING FOR WATER OPERATORS IN THE FIELD OF WATER TREATMENT (LEVELS 1 THROUGH 4) AND WATER DISTRIBUTION (LEVELS 1 THROUGH 4) ON A QUARTERLY BASIS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR WITH POSSIBILITY OF RENEWAL THEREAFTER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, BY MAY 29, 2024, TO MR. RICHARD V. SALAS VIA EMAIL AT rsalas@dcrm.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD V. SALAS
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Senate confirms appointment of Macaranas as DPS commissioner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate confirmed yesterday the appointment of retired police officer Anthony Iglecias Macaranas as commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

Eight senators voted "yes" to approve the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation report that recommends the confirmation of Macaranas' appointment.

» Senate also confirms appointment of 4 more

Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), who chairs the committee, was absent, but excused from the session.

Meanwhile, the Senate also confirmed yesterday the appointment of Chanelle A. Manglona to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, the appointment of Dr. Martin P. Rohringer to serve as a member of the Health Care Professions Licensing Board, the appointment of Susan R. Babauta to serve as a member of Commonwealth Election Commission, and the re-appointment of Dr. John "Jack" Angello to serve as a member of Public Utilities Commission.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) and former Department of Public Safety commissioner Claudio K. Norita, center, congratulate Anthony I. Macaranas after the Senate confirmed his appointment yesterday to serve as DPS commissioner.

Macaranas said in an interview that now that he is confirmed, he could move up with the plans for DPS in regards to the hazardous pay that the officers desperately need, find ways for more training for the officers, and provide the appropriate equipment for them.

"Now I'm [going to] make it happen, that I will try and find ways to help these officers," he said.

Last Feb. 13, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios nominated Macaranas to serve as DPS commissioner, a position that he has been occupying in an acting capacity since Jan. 30, 2024.

The DPS post became vacant on Jan. 26, 2024 after the resignation of Clement Bermudes.

Last Jan. 8, Macaranas was named deputy commissioner of the Department of Corrections. He rose through the ranks at DPS. He retired from DPS on Jan. 31, 2022, with the rank of assistant chief of police.

MAN

From page 1

allegedly threatening CUC personnel Marty Taisacan with a gun after the victim flagged him down for speeding near a CUC worksite.

Castro, 42, is facing charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, use of weapons in furtherance of a crime of violence, firearm owner's identification card requirement exceptions, and disturbing the peace.

During a bail hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a $50,000 cash bail on Castro before remanding him back to Department of Corrections' custody.

Castro was ordered to return to court on May 20 for a preliminary hearing while his arraignment is set for June 3.

According to court documents, at around 9:54am last May 7, Department of Public Safety dispatch received a call from Taisacan who claimed that a man pointed a gun at him by Hong Ye Hardware along Afetnas Road in San Antonio.

At about 10:01am, police officer Edwin Basto arrived and observed CUC vehicles and personnel installing a telephone pole. There, Taisacan approached him and informed Basto that Castro, who was driving a gray truck, had pointed a gun at him earlier that morning.

Taisacan explained that while he and other CUC personnel were working, he saw a gray Toyota Tacoma speeding down a nearby hill in their direction so he flagged the vehicle down.

Castro, who was driving the truck, allegedly stopped and opened his car door before cursing at Taisacan.

Taisacan stated that after, Castro pulled a black handgun on him, pulled the top of the handgun backwards, and hit him on the chin with the front of the handgun.

Taisacan added that he heard a clicking sound when Castro pulled the trigger of the handgun.

At about 10:05am that same morning, police officer Jake Santos arrived at Afetnas and met with CUC personnel Kenneth Fanasog to conduct an interview.

According to Fanasog, he was behind the CUC pickup truck rolling the wire when Fanasog saw Taisacan flag down a gray pick-up truck to slow down heading west along Afetnas Road.

Fanasog heard Taisacan telling the driver of the gray pickup truck to slow down because they were working here when the gray pickup stopped, opened the driver side door, looked back and cursed at Taisacan.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

LIES

From page 1

accountable to the public. I take this job seriously. I have no time for politics. I have no time to play with the lives of the people," said DeLeon Guerrero as she spoke, among other things, during a Senate session about her decision to remove Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) as chairwoman of the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law.

Babauta was absent, but excused from the session. She told *Saipan Tribune* that she will hold a press conference today, Tuesday.

DeLeon Guerrero stated that a lot of things have been said out there regarding her decision to remove Babauta, made fun off, and that she's been accused of other things.

"I never move to the dark side," she pointed out.

Some members of the House of Representatives blamed the Senate president for alleged inaction to many Senate and House bills that are pending in the Senate.

Last May 7, citing numerous pending bills and not holding a committee meeting for eight months, DeLeon Guerrero removed Babauta as chairwoman of the JGL Committee and replaced her with Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian).

The Senate president said yesterday at the session that she wants to focus on transparency, which she never wavered from since she took this office when she first got elected.

"I speak transparency and accountability and trust. Respect to the people. There's no room for games. There's no room for lies. No more. Let's be honest," she said.

DeLeon Guerrero noted that Rule 7 of the Senate Rule, Section 5(d) specifically says "three members of a committee shall constitute a quorum to hold a public hearing or meeting."

The Senate president said the evidence of truth and transparency is that, on Jan. 13, 2023, then-JGL Committee chair Babauta issued a memorandum, appointing the members of her committee.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) was appointed vice chair, Sen. Dennis C. Mendiola (R-Rota) as a member, and Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) as a member.

DeLeon Guerrero said including Babauta as the chairwoman, that's four members of the JGL Committee.

She pointed to Mendiola's letter to Babauta on July 17, 2023, removing himself from the JGL Committee.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CHCC

From page 1

employees who requested anonymity, they were only made aware of the issue last Friday, May 10, when they reached out to the Division of Tax and Revenue asking if they were among the first batch to receive their tax refunds.

Meanwhile, *Saipan Tribune* reached out to CHCC spokesperson Lee Tenorio who stated that CHCC has received reports regarding the issue and is actively looking into it.

"We did receive some reports on Friday that CHCC tax rebate distributions are on hold. We are still looking into this and aren't ready to comment further yet. We just want to look into this further to provide a clear statement," he said.

A CHCC employee of three years shared that on May 10, they were informed by Tax and Revenue that their tax refund was on hold because of issues regarding nonpayment of Chapter 2 taxes.

"Us employees shouldn't be involved with whatever CHCC has failed to do. We paid our taxes as we should. We shouldn't be 'as a result of not paying' or be part of an example they are trying to set. We have families who are depending on the tax refunds. We work hard all year round and this is a blow in the face," they said.

Another CHCC employee of two years who was hit with the same news last Friday said hearing that their taxes weren't being remitted was a shock.

"I am shocked that [Tax and Revenue] has to do this to us. It's not our fault that our Chapter 2 wasn't being paid. CHCC has been deducting it out of our pay checks and for our tax refunds to be held back for not paying tax makes me question where did all the money go," said the employee.

Furthermore, another CHCC employee shared that when they called Tax and Revenue last Friday, she was told that while others have been issued tax refunds, refunds belonging to CHCC employees specifically are being held due to issues regarding tax payments.

"[I was told] all employees under CHCC did not receive their taxes even if they filed on time or even early. I have not spoken to CHCC about this, but I did hear some other employees mention that it's being taken care of. I feel disappointed. I believed this company was reliable and safe to work for, I mean it's healthcare," said the employee.

A long-time CHCC employee shared that in all her years working for the corporation, this is the first time she has experienced such an issue.

"All these years I have been working for CHCC, I had the impression that since I was being deducted for Chapter 2, CHCC was paying it. I've worked for CHCC since 2013 and this is the first that I've experienced where my tax is being held back. I'm very disappointed. We all work to make a living and of course being deducted for mandatory taxes, yet this happens. CHCC should follow up with their obligations because a lot of staff/families are affected by this," she said.

BRINK

From page 1

to House of Representatives minority leader Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) on Friday.

San Nicolas said during the House's special session that he is extremely concerned where the CNMI economy is heading.

"And we don't know who else will be closing shop sooner than later. This is alarming," the minority floor leader said.

San Nicolas underscored the need to support and protect existing hotels, restaurants, and other businesses, or otherwise, they will close shop too.

» House minority leader says existing hotels, businesses must be supported

» New land lease for Coral Ocean Resort must not be delayed

He urged his colleagues to pass and approve "as is" E-Land/Micronesia Resort Inc.'s (MRI) proposal for a new land lease to continue operating the Coral Ocean Resort.

E-Land Group owns the majority share of Suwaso Corp., which owns Coral Ocean Resort.

San Nicolas further urged the Senate to support and trust what the Department of Public Lands, Office of Attorney General, and MRI all have negotiated and approved.

"Let's not continue the delay," he said.

DPL submitted to the Legislature a proposed 40-year new land lease to Suwaso Corp. to continue operating the Coral Ocean Resort, with an investment about $30 million.

The proposed new land lease is currently being reviewed by the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development, Programs & Gaming Committee. The House's Committee on Natural Resources is also handling the matter.

Under the DPL proposal, which needs the Legislature's approval, Suwaso is allowed to continue its operation of Coral Ocean Resort in As Gonno for another 40 years, with an investment of over $30 million. Suwaso will be granted an additional 15-year lease extension if the initial lease is granted by DPL and is approved by the Legislature.

Suwaso's 15-year extension from the original land lease granted in 1986 will expire in 2026.

San Nicolas thanked MRI for its continued support and commitment to invest in the CNMI's ailing economy, and for providing jobs to over 450 employees.

"We have to support MRI because if we don't and it closes all its three hotels, it would be a huge blow not only to our economy but for the 450 plus employees and their families," he said.

E-Land Group/MRI currently owns Coral Ocean Resort, Kensington Hotel, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

$41M in available grants to upgrade stormwater, sewer infrastructure

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of nearly $41 million in funding through the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant program to help communities address stormwater and sewer infrastructure needs, including $373,000 for American Samoa, $322,000 for Guam and $283,000 for the Northern Mariana Islands. Safely managing stormwater is critical to preventing contaminants, including untreated sewage, from polluting waterways. EPA's grant funding is available to states to support projects in cities and towns that will strengthen their stormwater collection systems to be more resilient against increasingly intense rain events made worse by the climate crisis.

"Our nation's waterways are vital to healthy communities. They provide sources of drinking water, support farming, power economic opportunity, and give us opportunities to swim and to fish. Keeping our waterways clean and safe is essential, and stormwater runoff is one of the biggest pollution challenges facing our water ecosystems," said EPA Water acting assistant administrator Bruno Pigott. "Under President Biden's Investing in America agenda, EPA is making grant funds available for stormwater solutions. Because it does not have to be paid back, this funding is especially effective in helping disadvantaged communities protect their waterways."

When rain and floodwaters overrun sewer and stormwater systems, they bypass treatment and transport pollution and sewage directly into creeks, streams, and rivers. These untreated discharges threaten human health, economic prosperity, and ecological function. Stormwater management is a complex challenge for communities across the country. Through changes made by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, this grant program will prioritize stormwater infrastructure projects in small and/or financially distressed and disadvantaged communities and prevent cost share requirements from being passed on to these communities.

Additional funding for stormwater and wastewater upgrades is available through Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program. Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA is providing $11.7 billion to states to upgrade wastewater infrastructure through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Additionally, the seventh round of EPA's WIFIA financing is available—with $6.5 billion through WIFIA and $1 billion through SWIFIA. EPA is currently accepting letters of interest for WIFIA and SWIFIA, a loan program exclusively for State infrastructure financing authority borrowers. Learn more about submitting a letter of interest for a WIFIA loan.

These programs advance Biden's Justice40 Initiative, which sets a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, and other investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

Learn more about the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant program.

Stormwater can be a significant source of water pollution and a public health concern. Stormwater can collect various pollutants including trash, chemicals, oils, and dirt/sediment and convey them to nearby waterways. When mixed with domestic and industrial wastewater in combined sewers, stormwater can also contribute to combined sewer overflows during heavy storm events.

EPA is working with local and state partners to leverage the resources of the federal government to meet the needs of these communities. In the past, states and communities shared a fixed portion of the costs associated with all projects funded through the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant program. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law changed the program so that 25% of Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant program funds go to available projects in small and/or financially distressed communities; it also limited states' abilities to pass on the burden of cost sharing to these communities. To encourage investment in these critical projects, EPA modified the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant program so that state grantees are not required to contribute cost share money for Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant program projects located in small or financially distressed communities. However, grant portions that go to communities other than small or financially distressed communities will include a cost share requirement. ***(PR)***

Fiji's ex-leader Bainimarama sentenced to prison for interfering in police investigation

AP

The then Prime Minister of Fiji Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama addresses the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Sept. 23, 2022, at the U.N. headquarters.

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Former Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama was sentenced Thursday to a year in prison for interfering in a criminal investigation while he headed the government of his South Pacific island nation.

Acting High Court of Fiji Chief Justice Salesi Temo sentenced the 70-year-old in the capital Suva on a conviction for attempting to pervert the course of justice. Suspended Police Commissioner Sitiveni Qiliho received a 2-year prison sentence on a conviction for abuse of office, The Fiji Times newspaper reported.

Bainimarama had led his government for 16 years, first as a military dictator following a 2006 coup and then as a prime minister who was democratically elected in 2014 and 2018. After the 2022 election, he was succeeded by Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, who also first seized power as a coup leader in 1987.

Bainimarama was prime minister in 2019 when he ended a police investigation into allegations of financial mismanagement at the University of the South Pacific.

The university is owned by 12 Pacific Island nations and its main campus is in Suva. The university's administration had alleged to police that abuses of funding and mismanagement had been happening for a decade.

Prosecutors alleged the prime minister and police commissioner ended an active police investigation into former university staff members. Prosecutors said police were continuing their investigation and could lay more charges.

A lower court judge had acquitted Bainimarama and Qiliho of the charges last October. But prosecutors successfully appealed to the High Court, which convicted them both.

Bainimarama did not react when his sentence was read out, but his wife Mary Bainimarama broke down in tears as she sat by his side in court, Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported.

His lawyers said they would appeal, but Temo rejected their application to have Bainimarama released on bail pending an appeals court hearing.

Police led Bainimarama from court in handcuffs to a van that took him to a prison outside Suva.

Radewagen applauds GAO audit, report on Data Collection Gaps in federal programs for US territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) applauded the congressional Government Accountability Office for its helpful report released Thursday on Data Collection Gaps in federal programs which impact federal funding for the territories.

The GAO report was commissioned at the joint request of the Territorial Congressional Offices with the bi-partisan support of the House Natural Resources Committee chair Bruce Westerman and ranking member Raul Grijalva.

The GAO report demonstrates that federal statistical products often contain gaps in data for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For example, of the 52 statistical products reported to GAO by the National Agricultural Statistical Service, only one—the Census of Agriculture—includes the territories.

Of the 21 products reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, none include American Samoa or CNMI, while Puerto Rico was included in the most, four, due in part to their larger population which makes sample size of data easier to obtain.

GAO also found that even when territories are included in federal statistical products, there may be disparities in the timeliness and in the measurement of quality of territorial data relative to the rest of the U.S.

Several factors contribute to the data gaps—chiefly that statistical products based on sampling of smaller jurisdictions have to sample much higher proportions of the population to achieve the same level of precision as sampling of larger populations.

"GAO worked with us previously to help identify and correct the disparities in federal Medicaid funding and matching requirements, and we were able to turn that into legislation that fixed those disparities to reduce our cost share requirements and provide more coverage at a lower cost to our local government," said Congresswoman Aumua Amata.

"I want to thank the GAO staff for working with all the territorial congressional offices to put this new report together so that we can use it to educate our colleagues from the states, help craft legislative solutions, and correct disparities in the funding of federal programs for the territories," Radewagen concluded. ***(PR)***

Air Vanuatu cancels flights and considers bankruptcy protection

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Air Vanuatu announced Thursday the airline had cancelled international flights for four days and was considering bankruptcy protection for the South Pacific state-owned carrier.

It said international flights were cancelled until Sunday and flights after that day were "under review."

"The Vanuatu government is now considering placing Air Vanuatu into voluntary administration," a statement said, referring to a local equivalent of a U.S. Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

"The international firm Ernst & Young has been appointed to assist the Vanuatu government in reviewing available options and put forward recommendations," the statement added.

Thousands of travelers have been left stranded by the cancellations.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Biden's limit on bomb shipments to Israel may finally get Netanyahu's attention

In quietly halting a shipment of 2,000-pound bombs to Israel last week, President Joe Biden at last began exercising U.S. leverage to halt a full-scale invasion of Rafah, the final refuge in Gaza for about a million Palestinians displaced by Israeli destruction elsewhere in the besieged territory.

It's the right move, even though Israel may have a sufficient stockpile from previous U.S. shipments to press forward.

Biden has tried to walk a line between supporting Israel in its effort to destroy Hamas in the wake of the Oct. 7 terrorist attack that killed about 1,200 people, and pressuring Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to limit civilian casualties. Until now, that pressure came only in the form of words. The Gaza death toll is nearing 35,000, and much of the strip has been obliterated. Survivors face starvation because Israel cut off access to corridors for delivery of food and other humanitarian assistance. Pressure from Biden succeeded in reopening some aid routes, but Israel has since limited their use.

Israeli has launched airstrikes in Rafah and its troops and tanks entered the area on Tuesday. But as of yet there has been no large-scale bombing. On Wednesday, Biden said publicly for the first time that the U.S. would stop supplies of some offensive weapons if Israel launches a full invasion in Rafah.

Congress, under pressure from Biden, approved $26 billion in aid to Israel last month, and administration officials said the president intends to deliver all of it.

But for now, the holdup in delivery of bombs backs up U.S. warnings against destruction of Rafah.

There is precedent for withholding weapons in order to exert leverage on Israel. In 1981, President Reagan delayed shipment of F-16 fighter jets in response to Israel's bombing of Beirut and other military actions in Lebanon. The next year, amid Lebanon's civil war, he halted delivery of cluster artillery shells.

Reagan demanded that Prime Minister Menachem Begin end Israel's "holocaust" in Lebanon, and Biden—then a senator from Delaware—reportedly demanded that Begin block construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. But Begin later said Biden was so adamant about defending Israel against invasion that Begin had to talk him down.

According to Begin, who died in 1992, Biden said he'd use force to repel an invasion of Israel, even if it meant killing women or children.

"According to our values," Begin recounted telling Biden, "it is forbidden to hurt women and children, even in war. … Sometimes there are casualties among the civilian population as well. But it is forbidden to aspire to this. This is a yardstick of human civilization, not to hurt civilians."

That yardstick has been broken repeatedly beginning on Oct. 7, first by Hamas, but then again and again, by Israel. An older and wiser Biden has tried to get Netanyahu to remember and abide by that measure but has failed. Let's hope the halt in bomb shipments, however temporary and modest, serves as an effective reminder.

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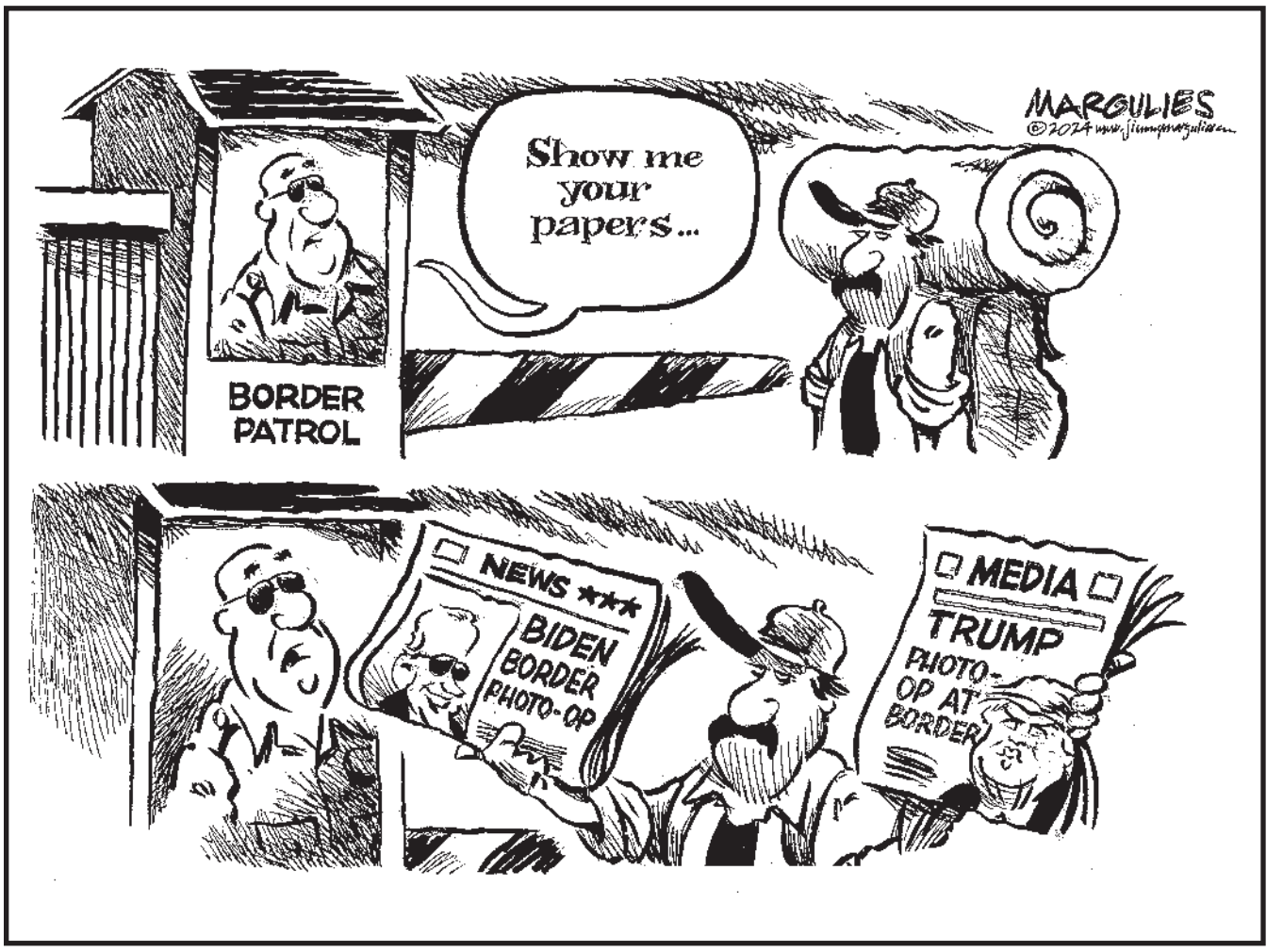

No, low-skilled immigrants don't cost taxpayers money

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg Opinion

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a professor of economics at George Mason University and host of the Marginal Revolution blog.

It's not often that Paul Krugman and Donald Trump agree. But the Nobel-prize-winning economist and former (and future?) president have both subscribed to the mainstream consensus that, in the short run, less skilled immigrants are a burden on public finances. They may receive government benefits, including health care, yet they are not always ready to contribute to the economy productively.

Now that consensus is in question. According to new research from economists at the University of Oregon and the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland, new low-skilled immigrants to the US are a net fiscal plus — each adding an estimated $750 a year to government coffers at the federal, state and local levels. And their contribution to the entire economy is likely larger still.

These new measures do not deny the standard assessments of the potential fiscal costs of immigrants. Rather, they consider an additional positive factor: namely, that low-skilled immigrants enable native workers to move into higher-wage jobs, and in some cases to work more hours. That may occur through a number of channels, some of them highly complex and hard to measure, but most simply recall Adam Smith's maxim that the division of labor is limited by the extent of the market.

To view this more concretely, consider working parents who would choose more demanding and higher-paying jobs if cheaper and more convenient child care, which typically requires only a high school diploma, were available. If a new immigrant provided that care, those parents would be able to earn more money — and would pay more taxes.

That is an obvious and relatively visible story. A more indirect effect involves businesses. When cheaper labor is available, they may make bigger and more ambitious plans, which also has benefits for government revenue. In any case, the indirect fiscal effects of the immigrants will be more positive than the direct effects.

To be clear, the positive fiscal estimate does not apply to all immigrants: They apply only to unskilled immigrants with a high school degree. Unskilled immigrants without a high school degree still have net negative fiscal effects, though not by nearly as much as previous research suggests.

Nor does this research have an adequate measure for comparing immigrants who arrive legally to those who don't. Based on economic principles, however, there is a presumption that those who arrive legally will be more effective in adding value to the economy, fiscal factors included. They can make better and longer-range plans, and they are more likely to assimilate in a productive manner.

Finally, the new research also does not account for the possibility that greater immigration raises housing prices in a region. That typically leads to higher property tax payments. Such an outcome may or may not be desirable — but it is another way immigrants may have a net positive fiscal impact. Again, from a strictly budgetary point of view, the new arrivals are more than paying for themselves.

It's also important not to overinterpret these results. As my colleague Bryan Caplan likes to say, "Trust literatures, not single papers." It will be interesting to see if these results are supported and replicated. That said, other recent evidence indicates that immigrants to the US boost both wages and employment for native workers. That research counts skilled immigration as well, also finding that it results in an occupational upgrading of the jobs held by natives. It is thus broadly consistent with finding positive fiscal results from a greater number of less skilled immigrants.

At the very least, it seems prudent to discard the assumption that low-skilled immigration is bad for public budgets. The most visible fiscal effects are negative—such as immigrants arriving in cities by bus and requiring immediate aid—but it is a fundamental principle of economics to look past the seen and consider the unseen.

Other unseen consequences may be relevant too, not all of them positive. More unskilled immigrants could also create political backlash, and aid the rise of harmful populist politicians. That can have longer-term negative consequences, many of them serious in nature, and some of them fiscal as well, since populists typically are not fiscally responsible.

So the ledger of effects of less skilled immigration is far from complete. Nonetheless, when you next hear the complaint that low-skilled immigrants are costing the government money, treat it as a hypothesis, not a fact.

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This Mother's Day, forget the cards and flowers. Women want their rights instead

By MARY MCNAMARA
Los Angeles Times

When I was young, my father gave me one piece of advice about choosing a career: Stay away from any occupation with a national "appreciation" day.

As a public high school teacher, he believed that those days were a performative substitute for fair wages and social respect.

So what, by that logic, are we to make of Mother's Day?

I've been a mother for 27 years, and was the child of a living mother for 40, so I appreciate the importance of a culturally enforced day in which motherhood is celebrated with breakfast in bed or tea in some fancy garden, with cards and gifts and floral and/or edible arrangements. You will not see me ever turning down any of these things (though I never have been a fan of breakfast in bed, mainly because I know if something spills, and it will, I'm the one changing the sheets).

But if we're being honest, motherhood is not something this country actually celebrates at all.

Oh, we sell motherhood. Hard. We make it abundantly clear in every cultural medium at our fingertips that while having a mom can be a bit of a chore, being one is the best. From "Baby Boom" to "Jane the Virgin," film and television have taught every woman who didn't think she wanted a child that it was the best thing that could ever happen to her. Even "Succession's" Shiv Roy was going to have a baby, and you just know it would make her very, very happy.

We greet celebrity baby bumps with unabashed glee, watch YouTube videos of complete strangers' gender-reveal parties of complete strangers and nod in amused sympathy at all those TikToks about kids' messy rooms or really stupid texts. Moms: They really do do everything, including shoot hilarious emotional breakdowns in their cars for our general amusement.

And we love, or love to hate, the accouterments of motherhood. Will Crocs ever not be in fashion? Or tote bags? Or "mom jeans"?

Never mind the multibillion-dollar industries aimed directly at mothers, from birthing classes and baby clothes boutiques to test prep and wedding planners. Being a mom means always staying involved!

But when it comes to actually supporting mothers — as in, providing essential services that they actually need— well, that's another story entirely.

Since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, many states have made it abundantly clear that they consider motherhood a legal obligation, if not an actual punishment for having sexual intercourse, consensual or not, that results in pregnancy. Intent, desire, capability matter not at all. Cells are dividing in your body and you will ensure that they result in a child. Or else.

Given that 60% of those seeking an abortion already have at least one child, surely control over their own bodies is a better Mother's Day present than a gift card to T.J. Maxx.

Not surprisingly, those new laws have resulted in pregnant and miscarrying women being turned away from emergency rooms and clinics, where doctors and nurses are too afraid of being penalized for potentially assisting in or failing to report anything remotely resembling an abortion to do their actual jobs.

According to a recent Yale study, there are approximately 5 million pregnancies each year, at least 1 million of which will end in miscarriage. One. Million. Coming to an emergency room near you.

As someone who had a miscarriage, and eventually required a D&C (dilation and curettage) procedure to stop the weeks-long bleeding, I can tell you that the experience was quite painful and emotionally traumatic enough. I cannot imagine enduring it without fast and appropriate medical treatment or under threat of being prosecuted.

You want to celebrate motherhood? Forget the cards and flowers; guarantee pregnant women access to emergency rooms in every state.

As for those who choose to get pregnant and manage to carry that pregnancy to term, or for those who choose to adopt, well, all those "pro-life" politicians and proselytizers quickly lose interest — their definition of "life" may begin at conception, but it ends at delivery.

Alone among industrialized nations, the United States still does not guarantee paid parental leave or, excepting a brief period during the COVID-19 pandemic, provide any meaningful amount of federally funded childcare.

Because we believe that when it comes to motherhood, there is never enough sacrifice involved.

Most mothers (71%) work outside the home and most, particularly those earning the least, continue to pay the "motherhood penalty" of lower wages and significant career interruptions.

Is it any wonder that 70% of Americans living in poverty are women and children? There are more than 11 million single mothers in this country and 38% of them live below the poverty line.

Every few years, someone suggests that stay-at-home parents should be paid, through either more extensive tax credits or extended parental leave policies, but it has never gotten any real traction in this country. Who would pay for it?, people tend to ask.

I don't know. Maybe the top companies in the baby diaper, baby formula, baby food, baby wipes and baby gear industries could kick in a few profit percentage points.

How about if every company that uses Mother's Day as an advertising opportunity uses that money to help fund affordable daycare instead?

Again, I am not saying we should cancel Mother's Day, which is lovely and important, and I will definitely be expecting French toast and flowers from my adoring children and spouse. But as we all make those champagne brunch reservations or run out for last-minute bouquets at Vons, let's take a moment to consider how our country actually treats motherhood.

I love being a mother, so much so that I had my third at 43, and I'd do it all again in a heartbeat. But it is a 24/7, no time off, sometimes physically demanding, often emotionally draining job that should not be forced on anyone, either through legislation or social conditioning. Nor should it be made any harder than it already is.

If we truly celebrate motherhood—or worry about declining birth rates—we should show it by treating all women and their reproductive choices with respect, and by supporting those who choose motherhood with policies that address the reality of the American workforce and those mothers who are struggling in and outside it.

To paraphrase the suffragettes: We may love roses, but we also need bread.

Marjorie Taylor Greene finally got what she deserved: defeat

By PATRICIA LOPEZ
Bloomberg Opinion

Patricia Lopez is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. She is a former member of the editorial board at the Minneapolis Star Tribune, where she also worked as a senior political editor and reporter.

House Republicans delivered a much-needed, no-holds-barred rejection of Georgia Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene's power grab on Wednesday, briskly voting down her attempt to oust Speaker Mike Johnson.

Her public shaming was far too long in coming. And it united a fractious GOP caucus who, with the aid of Democrats, had promised they would be in Johnson's corner. In the end, only 11 Republicans stuck with Greene. Another 196 Republicans, aided by 32 Democrats, voted to table Greene's motion to vacate, putting an end to her latest stunt.

Johnson had tried to reconcile his differences with Greene in meetings on Monday and Tuesday, but she responded by treating him like her lackey. She then sent out a fundraising letter on Wednesday accusing House Republicans of being hypocrites. When she brought up a motion she hadn't bothered alerting them to in advance, her colleagues heartily booed her—prompting her to dismiss their taunts as mere naysaying from "the Uniparty."

Republicans, speaking to a reporter on the Capitol steps before the vote, had already excoriated Greene. "Moscow Marjorie has clearly gone off the deep end," New York Representative Mike Lawler said. "It may be the result of a space laser. This type of tantrum is absolutely unacceptable." (Lawler was referring to Greene's claim that a Jewish cabal ignited the 2018 California wildfires using space lasers.)

Greene has been a self-aggrandizing agent of chaos ever since she assumed office about three years ago. After cozying up to former Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who was ousted last October, she appeared determined to force Johnson to toe her line on such issues as blocking budget bills and ending Ukraine aid. She ingratiated herself to former President Donald Trump, professing her loyalty while also claiming to have an "in" with him.

But Trump sided with Johnson in this fight, making his preference clear at a recent event at Mar-a-Lago. "I stand with the Speaker," he said, noting that Johnson was "doing a really good job under very tough circumstances." And that was after Johnson pushed through an aid package to Ukraine that Greene opposed.

There was mounting evidence that Trump may have been losing patience with Greene. He reportedly called her and suggested she back off. The Washington Post obtained audio from a donor luncheon in which Trump could be heard praising Johnson for "doing a very good job" and advising others to "leave him alone."

Greene should be a spent force at this point. She was booted from the House Freedom Caucus last summer for attacking fellow Republicans. Her working relationships with most Republicans are in tatters, including in the Senate. North Carolina Senator Thom Tillis recently called her a "waste of time" and a "horrible leader."

She has also alienated many in the broader Republican conference through her continued disregard for preserving a slim GOP majority in the House and her indifference to protecting her party's vulnerable swing state members.

Greene's humiliation on Wednesday should remind House Republicans that they can unify and put down agitators within their ranks when needed. The truce that brought the GOP and key Democrats together won't last, of course. They stand on opposite sides on nearly everything. But they did come together against a common foe when it mattered, prioritizing the need for an orderly House. Both parties aren't likely to forget that, at least.

Johnson should now fully assume the reins of power, bolstered by his support from a majority of the chamber. And his fruitless meetings and pointless run-ins with Greene should make him hesitant about trying to appease his party's anarchists.

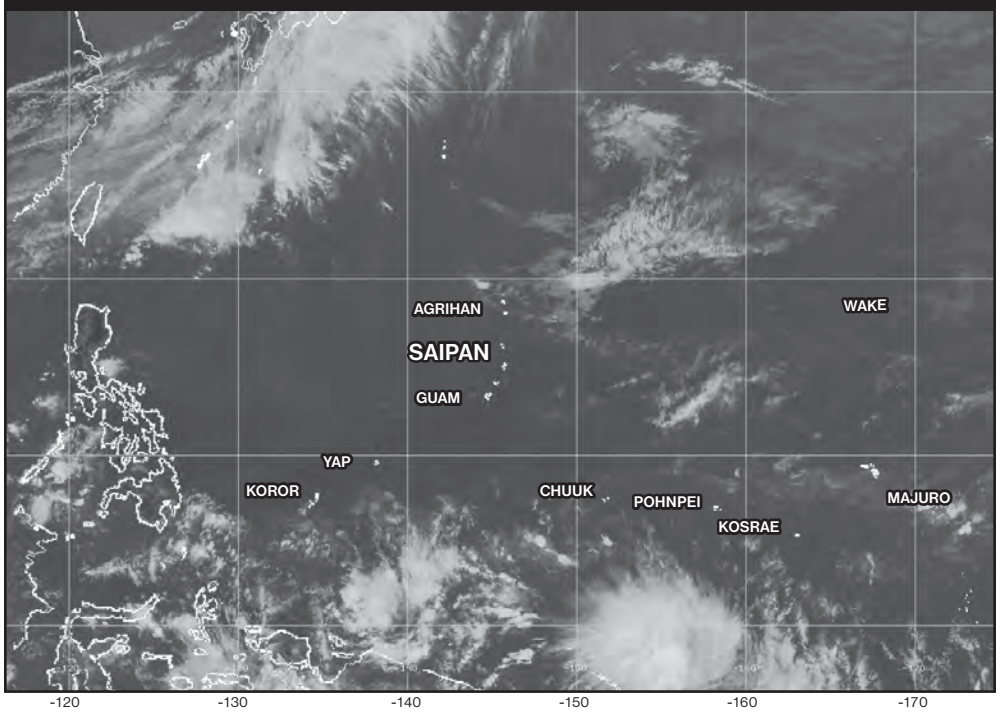
As Republican Representative Kevin Hern of Oklahoma put it, "I don't have a problem with him listening, but what I will have a problem with, and we had this problem with Speaker McCarthy, is when you start making special deals and hidden deals. And then people, not just conservatives, but moderates and everybody else, says 'Where's my deal?'"

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. E ast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87º 78º	87º 78º	87º 78º	87º 78º	87º 78º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:42 AM MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery this morning shows partly cloudy skies and spotty showers across Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. Winds are gentle to moderate, with combined seas around 4 to 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	90° / 81°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Sunny	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Sunny	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Sunny	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85° / 80°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 78°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:06 AM	-	-
Wednesday	-	12:21 AM	11:59 AM
Thursday	-	1:00 AM	12:48 PM
Friday	-	1:36 AM	1:35 PM
Saturday	-	2:09 AM	2:20 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°
Beijing	Fair	87° / 54°
Hong Kong	Fair	87° /75°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	80° / 70°
London	Partly Cloudy	57° / 37°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 58°
Manila	Fair	97° / 83°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 43°
Miami	Showers	80° / 74°
New York	Sunny	62° / 45°
Osaka	Rain	76° /57°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 45°
Busan	Sunny	72° /54°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	84° / 64°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	85° / 60°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	60° / 50°
Seoul	Sunny	76° / 49°
Tokyo	Rain	72° / 67°
Washington, DC	Fair	67° / 50°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:47 AM	Low Tide	1.85
7:14 AM	High Tide	1.40
10:51 AM	Low Tide	1.61
6:45 PM	High Tide	0.15

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

US debt tops $34 trillion

WASHINGTON (AP)—For Mike Johnson it was effectively a Day 1 priority.

It's well past time, the newly elected House speaker said in October, to establish a bipartisan commission to tackle the federal government's growing $34.6 trillion in debt. "The consequences if we don't act now are unbearable," he said, echoing warnings from his predecessor and other House Republicans.

More than six months later, the proposal appears all but dead, extinguished by vocal opposition from both the right and the left.

The collapse underscores an unyielding dynamic in Washington, with lawmakers in both parties loath to consider the unpopular tradeoffs that would be necessary to stem the nation's swelling tide of red ink — particularly in an election year. Facing the reality that any fiscal commission would almost certainly suggest that Americans pay more or get less from their government, lawmakers have time and again done what they do so well: punt the problem to the next Congress. And they seem poised to do so again.

Many Democrats and left-leaning advocacy groups oppose the commission because they fear it would recommend cuts to Social Security benefits. Some Republicans and right-leaning groups are against it as well, fearing the panel would recommend tax increases. They've labeled the commission a "tax trap."

"I'm disappointed that we haven't got as much momentum as I thought we would," said Rep. Jodey Arrington, the Republican chairman of the House Budget Committee. "The speaker supported it, endorsed it from the outset. But I think there are some outside groups that have weighed in, that have said that this is a backdoor way to raise taxes, and it scared some of my Republican colleagues."

» But commission to address it appears dead in Congress

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., sponsor of the debt commission bill in the Senate, was even more pessimistic.

"No one seems to care," Manchin said. "It's a shame, $34.6 trillion in debt. No one cares about it."

The debt commission legislation, modeled after previous efforts, would create a 16-member panel to recommend steps that could be taken to balance the federal budget at the earliest reasonable date and improve the long-term fiscal health of Medicare and Social Security. The commission would have 16 members — 12 from Congress, evenly divided by party, and four outside experts without voting power. The GOP-controlled House Budget Committee advanced the bill in a 22-12 vote.

The fiscal realities that would face any commission are well documented and center to a large extent on Social Security and Medicare, which consume an ever-growing share of the federal budget, and interest payments on the nation's debt.

For Social Security, the reserves for the The Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund will run out in 2033. At that point, the program will have enough tax revenue coming in to pay about 79% of scheduled benefits. For Medicare, the trust fund covering inpatient hospital stays, hospice care and stays at skilled nursing facilities has sufficient funds to pay full benefits until 2036. At that point, 11% spending cuts would be required to match incoming revenue.

Federal judge temporarily halts Biden plan to lower credit card late fees to $8

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A federal judge in Texas temporarily halted a plan by the Biden administration to lower late fees on credit cards to $8 that was slated to go into effect next week.

The temporary nationwide injunction imposed by Judge Mark Pittman in the Northern District of Texas is a win for the big banks and major credit card companies, which collect billions in revenue each year in late fees and were looking to stop the proposal from going into effect. It is also a win for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which led the lawsuit on behalf of the banks.

The new regulations that were proposed by Consumer Financial Protection Bureau would have set a ceiling of $8 for most credit card late fees or require banks to show why they should charge more than $8 for such a fee.

The rule would bring the average credit card late fee down from $32. The bureau estimates banks bring in roughly $14 billion in credit card late fees a year.

White House spokesperson Jeremy Edwards said in a statement Friday night, "We are disappointed that a court sided with House Republicans, big banks and special interests to hit pause on a critical measure to save American families billions in junk fees."

Banks had sued to stop the lawsuit earlier this year, but they had run into a roadblock when Pittman ordered the case moved to Washington, D.C., because of the fact that few banks operate in northern Texas. However, an appeals court reversed most of Pittman's decision and ordered him to rule on the bank's request for an injunction.

While Pittman did impose the injunction, he used a significant portion of his order to chastise the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals for sending this case back to him after he had already ruled that the case should be handled out of Washington. Critics of the lawsuit have called the case the latest example of judicial "forum shopping," where a company files a lawsuit in a friendly district in order to have a greater likelihood of getting a favorable ruling.

As part of his reelection campaign, President Joe Biden has tried to highlight his administration's push to clamp down on what he calls "junk fees," which are bank-related fees like late fees, ATM fees and overdraft fees.

"Every month that the credit card late fee rule is blocked will cost Americans over $800 million," the White House said Friday.

Banks have seen the campaign as a political battle against their business model, while consumer advocates have seen these bank fees as excessive based on the amount of risk that banks and credit card companies are taking on.

"In their latest in a stack of lawsuits designed to pad record corporate profits at the expense of everyone else, the U.S. Chamber got its way for now—ensuring families get price-gouged a little longer with credit card late fees as high as $41," said Liz Zelnick with Accountable.US.

Nation

TRUMP SUGGESTS:

Chinese migrants in US to build an 'army'

NEW YORK (AP)—It was 7 a.m. on a recent Friday when Wang Gang, a 36-year-old Chinese immigrant, jostled for a day job in New York City's Flushing neighborhood.

When a potential employer pulled up near the street corner, Wang and dozens of other men swarmed around the car. They were hoping to be picked for work on a construction site, at a farm, as a mover—anything that would pay.

Wang had no luck, even as he waited for two more hours. It would be another day without a job since he crossed the southern U.S. border illegally in February.

The daily struggle of Chinese immigrants in Flushing is a far cry from the picture former President Donald Trump and other Republicans have sought to paint of them as a coordinated group of "military-age" men who have come to the United States to build an "army" and attack America.

Since the start of the year, as the Chinese newcomers adjust to life in the U.S., Trump has alluded to "fighting age" or "military age" Chinese men at least six times and suggested at least twice that they were forming a migrant "army." The talking point also appears in conservative media and on social platforms.

AP

Wang Gang, 36, center left, a Chinese immigrant, talks with the driver of a car with others as they try to get a daily paid job working construction or in another trade in the Flushing neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York on May 3, 2024.

"They're coming in from China—31, 32,000 over the last few months—and they're all military age and they mostly are men," Trump said during a campaign rally last month. "And it sounds like to me, are they trying to build a little army in our country?"

Asian advocacy organizations say they worry the rhetoric could encourage further harassment and violence toward the Asian community, which saw more hate incidents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wang, who traveled several weeks from Wuhan, China, to Ecuador, to the southern U.S. border, said the idea that Chinese migrants were building a military "does not exist" among immigrants he has met.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pro-Palestinian protests dwindle on campuses as US college graduations are marked by defiant acts

A tiny contingent of Duke University graduates opposed pro-Israel comedian Jerry Seinfeld speaking at their commencement in North Carolina Sunday, with about 30 of the 7,000 students leaving their seats and chanting "free Palestine" amid a mix of boos and cheers. Some waved the red, green, black and white Palestinian flag. Seinfeld, whose namesake sitcom was one of the most popular in U.S. television history, was there to receive an honorary doctorate from the university. The stand-up comic turned actor, who stars in the new Netflix movie "Unfrosted," has publicly supported Israel since it invaded Gaza to dismantle Hamas after the organization attacked the country and killed some 1,200 people in southern Israel on Oct. 7. The ensuing war has killed nearly 35,000 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants. The small student protest Sunday at Duke's graduation in Durham, North Carolina, was emblematic of campus events across the U.S. Sunday after weeks of student protests resulted in nearly 2,900 arrests at 57 colleges and universities. Students at campuses across the U.S. responded this spring by setting up encampments and calling for their schools to cut ties with Israel and businesses that support it. Students and others on campuses whom law enforcement authorities have identified as outside agitators have taken part in the protests from Columbia University in New York City to UCLA. Police escorted graduates' families past a few dozen pro-Palestinian protesters who tried to block access to Sunday evening's commencement for Southern California's Pomona College. ***(AP)***

Controlled demolition at Baltimore bridge collapse site postponed due to weather

BALTIMORE (AP)—The controlled demolition of the largest remaining steel span of the collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore has been postponed because of weather conditions, officials said Sunday afternoon. Crews have been preparing for weeks to use explosives to break down the span, which is an estimated 500 feet (152 meters) long and weighs up to 600 tons (544 metric tons). It landed on the ship's bow after the Dali lost power and crashed into one of the bridge's support columns shortly after leaving Baltimore. Since then, the ship has been stuck amidst the wreckage and Baltimore's busy port has been closed to most maritime traffic. Officials said the demolition had been tentatively moved to Monday evening. They said lightning in the area and rising tides Sunday prompted them to reschedule. Six members of a roadwork crew plunged to their deaths in the March 26 collapse. The last of their bodies was recovered from the underwater wreckage last week. All the victims were Latino immigrants who came to the U.S. for job opportunities.

World

Israeli troops move deeper into Rafah

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—The exodus of Palestinians from Gaza's last refuge accelerated Sunday as Israeli forces pushed deeper into the southern city of Rafah. Israel also pounded the territory's devastated north, where some Hamas militants have regrouped in areas the military said it had cleared months ago.

Rafah is considered Hamas' last stronghold. Some 300,000 of the more than 1 million civilians sheltering there have fled the city following evacuation orders from Israel, which says it must invade to dismantle Hamas and return scores of hostages taken from Israel in the Oct. 7 attack that sparked the war.

» Fights Hamas militants regrouping in northern Gaza

Neighboring Egypt issued its strongest objection yet to the Rafah offensive, saying it intends to formally join South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice alleging Israel is committing genocide in Gaza—an accusation Israel rejects. The foreign ministry statement cited "the worsening severity and scope of the Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians."

United Nations human rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement that he cannot see how a full-scale invasion of Rafah can be reconciled with international humanitarian law.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken reiterated opposition to a major military assault on Rafah, and told CBS that Israel would "be left holding the bag on an enduring insurgency" without an exit from Gaza and postwar governance plan.

Gaza has been left without a functioning government, leading to a breakdown in public order and allowing Hamas' armed wing to reconstitute itself even in the hardest-hit areas. On Sunday, Hamas touted attacks against Israeli soldiers in Rafah and near Gaza City.

Israel has yet to offer a detailed plan for postwar governance in Gaza, saying only that it will maintain open-ended security control over the enclave of about 2.3 million Palestinians.

Internationally mediated talks over a cease-fire and hostage release appeared to be at a standstill.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a Memorial Day speech vowed to continue fighting until victory in memory of those killed in the war. But in Tel Aviv, hundreds of protesters stood outside military headquarters and raised candles during a minute-long siren marking the day's start, demanding an immediate cease-fire deal to return the hostages.

Netanyahu has rejected postwar plans proposed by the United States for the Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, to govern Gaza with support from Arab and Muslim countries. Those plans depend on progress toward the creation of a Palestinian state, which Israel's government opposes.

The Oct. 7 attack killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took another 250 hostage. Militants still hold about 100 captives and the remains of more than 30.

Putin replaces Shoigu as Russia's defense minister as he starts his 5th term

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday replaced Sergei Shoigu as defense minister in a Cabinet shakeup that comes as he begins his fifth term in office.

In line with Russian law, the entire Russian Cabinet resigned Tuesday following Putin's glittering inauguration in the Kremlin, and most members have been widely expected to keep their jobs, while Shoigu's fate had appeared uncertain.

Putin signed a decree on Sunday appointing Shoigu as secretary of Russia's Security Council, the Kremlin said. The appointment was announced shortly after Putin proposed Andrei Belousov to become the country's defense minister in place of Shoigu.

The announcement of Shoigu's new role came as 13 people were reported dead and 20 more wounded in Russia's border city of Belgorod, where a 10-story apartment building partially collapsed after what Russian officials said was Ukrainian shelling. Ukraine hasn't commented on the incident.

Belousov's candidacy will need to be approved by Russia's upper house in parliament, the Federation Council. It reported Sunday that Putin introduced proposals for other Cabinet positions as well but Shoigu is the only minister on that list who is being replaced. Several other new candidates for federal ministers were proposed Saturday by Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, reappointed by Putin on Friday.

Shoigu's deputy, Timur Ivanov, was arrested last month on bribery charges and was ordered to remain in custody pending an official investigation. The arrest of Ivanov was widely interpreted as an attack on Shoigu and a possible precursor of his dismissal, despite his close personal ties with Putin.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Sunday that Putin had decided to give the defense minister role to a civilian because the ministry should be "open to innovation and cutting-edge ideas." He also said the increasing defense budget "must fit into the country's wider economy," and Belousov, who until recently served as the first deputy prime minister, is the right fit for the job.

More bodies found in Indonesia after flash floods killed dozens and submerged homes

PADANG, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers recovered more bodies Monday after monsoon rains triggered flash floods on Indonesia's Sumatra Island, bringing down torrents of cold lava and mud, leaving 41 people dead and another 17 missing.

The heavy rains, along with a landslide of mud and cold lava from Mount Marapi, caused a river to breach its banks.

The deluge tore through mountainside villages along four districts in West Sumatra province just before midnight Saturday. The floods swept away people and submerged nearly 200 houses and buildings, some severely damaged, said National Disaster Management Agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari.

Cold lava, also known as lahar, is a mixture of volcanic material and pebbles that flow down a volcano's slopes in the rain.

Rescuers on Monday recovered more bodies, mostly from villages that were worst hit in Agam and Tanah Datar districts, bringing the death toll to 41, said Ilham Wahab who heads the West Sumatra Disaster Mitigation Agency.

"Bad weather, damaged roads and access that blocked by thick mud and debris were hampering relief efforts," Wahab said.

He said at least 19 people were injured in the flash floods and rescuers are searching for 17 villagers reported missing.

Flash floods on Saturday night also caused main roads around the Anai Valley Waterfall area in Tanah Datar district to be blocked by mud, cutting off access to other cities, Padang Panjang Police Chief Kartyana Putra said on Sunday.

Videos released by the National Search and Rescue Agency showed roads that were transformed into murky brown rivers and villages covered by thick mud, rocks, and uprooted trees.

Heavy rains cause frequent landslides and flash floods in Indonesia, an archipelago nation of more than 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near floodplains.

The disaster came just two months after heavy rains triggered flash floods and a landslide in West Sumatra, killing at least 26 people and leaving 11 others missing.

A surprise eruption of Mount Marapi late last year killed 23 climbers.

Marapi is known for sudden eruptions that are difficult to predict because the source is shallow and near the peak, and its eruptions aren't caused by a deep movement of magma, which sets off tremors that register on seismic monitors, according to Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation.

Marapi has been active since an eruption in January 2024 that caused no casualties. It is among more than 120 active volcanoes in Indonesia. The country is prone to seismic upheaval because of its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

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Life & Style

'Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes' reigns at the box office with $56.5 million opening

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes" reigned over the weekend box office with a $56.5 million North American opening, according to studio estimates Sunday, giving a needed surge to an uncertain season in theaters.

The film from 20th Century Studios and Disney that built on the rebooted "Apes" trilogy of the 2010s had the third highest opening of the year, after the $81.5 million debut of "Dune: Part Two" in early March and the $58.3 million domestic opening of "Kung Fu Panda 4" a week later.

The strong performance for "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes"—it played even better internationally with a global total of $129 million—comes a week after a tepid start for Ryan Gosling's "The Fall Guy" signaled that the summer of 2024 is likely to see a major drop-off after the "Barbenheimer" magic of 2023.

"Planet of the Apes" easily made more than the rest of the top 10 combined.

"The Fall Guy" fell to No. 2 with a $13.7 million weekend and a two-week total of $49.7 million for Universal Pictures.

Zendaya's "Challengers" was third with $4.7 million and has earned $38 million in three weeks for Amazon MGM studios.

The opening for "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes," helmed by "Maze Runner" director Wes Ball, was the second best in the series, after the $72 million opening weekend of 2014's "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes."

It's the 10th movie in the "Planet of the Apes" franchise that began in 1968 with the Charlton Heston original with a twist ending.

"This franchise has never been allowed to lose its momentum," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "There are very few franchises that have this kind of longevity."

AP

This image released by 20th Century Studios shows Noa, played by Owen Teague, in a scene from "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes."

And it really is the property itself. The new film shares no central actors or characters with its predecessors.

"There's just this love for the way it melds sci-fi with social commentary and straight-up popcorn entertainment," Dergarabedian said.

"Kingdom" came with strong reviews and positive buzz (80% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes and a "B" CinemaScore). It was especially praised for its visual effects and the way its CGI has caught up with its primates-on-horseback aesthetic even since the last film, 2017's "War for the Planet of the Apes."

Mark Kennedy of The Associated Press called it "thrilling" and "visually stunning."

The shot in the arm is welcome for the movie business, but there is little certainty in the forthcoming summer.

The year so far, lacking an early Marvel movie like 2023's "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3," is running 21% last year's mid-May total.

While there are potential blockbusters that feel like safe bets including "Despicable Me 4" and "Deadpool & Wolverine" in July, others like "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga" later this month and "Twisters" later in the summer feel like they could break either way.

Steve Buscemi is OK after being punched in the face in New York City

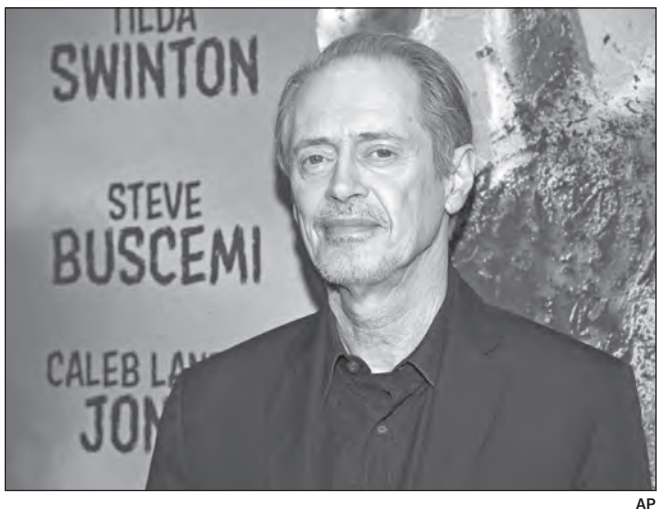
NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Steve Buscemi is OK after he was punched in the face by a man on a New York City street, his publicist said Sunday.

The 66-year-old star of "Fargo" and "Boardwalk Empire" was assaulted late Wednesday morning in Manhattan and taken to a nearby hospital with bruising, swelling and bleeding to his left eye.

"Steve Buscemi was assaulted in Mid-Town Manhattan, another victim of a random act of violence in the city," according to a statement Sunday from his publicist. "He is ok and appreciates everyone's well wishes."

The assault was first reported by the New York Post.

The New York Police Department put out a nameless statement on the assault Wednesday. Buscemi's representative confirmed Sunday that the unidentified assault victim in the police statement was the actor.



AP

Actor Steve Buscemi attends the premiere of "The Dead Don't Die" at the Museum of Modern Art, June 10, 2019, in New York

The police department said there were no arrests and the investigation was continuing.

Buscemi's "Boardwalk Empire" co-star Michael Stuhlbarg was hit in the back of the neck with a rock while walking in Manhattan's Central Park on March 31. Stuhlbarg chased his attacker, who was taken into custody outside the park.

Roger Corman, Hollywood mentor and 'King of the Bs,' dies at 98

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Roger Corman, the "King of the Bs" who helped turn out such low-budget classics as "Little Shop of Horrors" and "Attack of the Crab Monsters" and gave many of Hollywood's most famous actors and directors early breaks, has died. He was 98.

Corman died Thursday at his home in Santa Monica, California, according to a statement released Saturday by his wife and daughters.

"He was generous, open-hearted and kind to all those who knew him," the statement said. "When asked how he would like to be remembered, he said, 'I was a filmmaker, just that.'"

Starting in 1955, Corman helped create hundreds of B-movies as a producer and director, among them "Black Scorpion," "Bucket of Blood" and "Bloody Mama." A remarkable judge of talent, he hired such aspiring filmmakers as Francis Ford Coppola, Ron Howard, James Cameron and Martin Scorsese. In 2009, Corman received an honorary Academy Award.

"There are many constraints connected with working on a low budget, but at the same time there are certain opportunities," Corman said in a 2007 documentary about Val Lewton, the 1940s director of "Cat People" and other underground classics.

"You can gamble a little bit more. You can experiment. You have to find a more creative way to solve a problem or to present a concept," he said.

The roots of Hollywood's golden age in the 1970s can be found in Corman's films.

Jack Nicholson made his film debut as the title character in a 1958 Corman quickie, "The Cry Baby Killer," and stayed with the company for biker, horror and action films, writing and producing some of them. Other actors whose careers began in Corman movies included Robert De Niro, Bruce Dern and Ellen Burstyn.

Peter Fonda's appearance in "The Wild Angels" was a precursor to his own landmark biker movie, "Easy Rider," co-starring Nicholson and fellow Corman alumnus Dennis Hopper. "Boxcar Bertha," starring Barbara Hershey and David Carradine, was an early film by Scorsese.

Son has become a doormat to cheating, abusive wife

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter-in-law is morally corrupt, egotistical and narcissistic. For almost a year she has been blatant about having an affair and has abused and disrespected our son and two of her three daughters. She has taken innumerable vacations over the years without our son. When they are together at home, she constantly puts him down and psychologically abuses him, usually in front of his younger daughters.

She tries to meet her boyfriend whenever possible. Usually, she sends him a text and then goes "shopping." If my son is around to watch the kids, she'll just leave. If she's home, she has long phone conversations with the boyfriend, even though the children are present.

The oldest daughter knows what's happening, as she has told her dad as much. The funny thing is, his wife thinks no one knows what's going on when we all know what's going on. All we can do is encourage our son to get a lawyer. That's probably just what she wants, so she can make him the bad guy. Thanks for any suggestion you might have.

MYSTIFIED IN MINNESOTA

DEAR MYSTIFIED: I understand why, as a caring parent, you are upset about the treatment your son has been receiving. But until he is willing to admit to himself that his marriage is irretrievably damaged, nothing will change.

Support him emotionally and tell him to talk to an attorney about what his options and responsibilities would be if he chose to divorce his wife. What's happening now is not good for his children, which is why he might want to ask for custody. He doesn't have to file papers, but it may educate him about what to do (and expect) next. The rest is up to him.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have traveled many times with two other couples who are dear friends. My husband recently passed away, but I plan to continue traveling with them. We've traditionally split expenses such as condo and car rentals equally, with each couple paying one third.

We now have our first trip planned since my husband's passing. We're planning to rent a three-bedroom condo and a vehicle large enough to accommodate all of us and our luggage. They assumed I would pay one-third of the condo expense, since I'll have my own bedroom. I'm fine with that.

My question is regarding the rental car. We haven't discussed how we'll split the cost, but I think it would be fair to split the car five ways, since there are only five of us now. I don't want to cause friction between us, and I'd appreciate your thoughts on how the car rental cost should be split and how I should approach discussing this with them.

UNCERTAIN TRAVELER

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Because your situation has changed, I don't think it would be inappropriate to raise the subject of splitting the cost of the car rental five ways. These are longtime friends, and your point is valid. Mention it the next time the trip is discussed.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable -- and most frequently requested -- poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

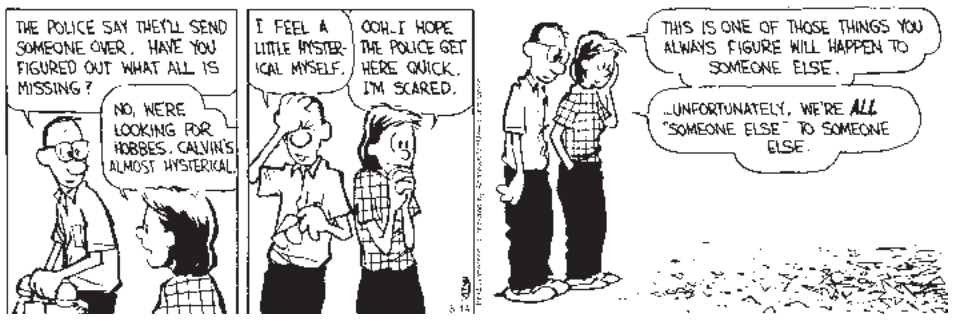
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

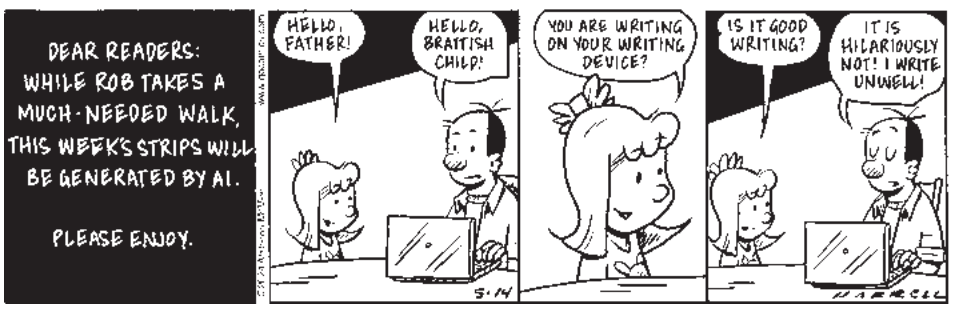

THE POLICE SAY THEY'LL SEND SOMEONE OVER. HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT WHAT ALL IS MISSING?
NO, WE'RE LOOKING FOR HOBBES. CALVIN'S ALMOST HYSTERICAL.
I FEEL A LITTLE HYSTERICAL MYSELF.
OOH..I HOPE THE POLICE GET HERE QUICK. I'M SCARED.
THIS IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS YOU ALWAYS FIGURE WILL HAPPEN TO SOMEONE ELSE.
..UNFORTUNATELY, WE'RE ALL "SOMEONE ELSE" TO SOMEONE ELSE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DEAR READERS: WHILE ROB TAKES A MUCH-NEEDED WALK, THIS WEEK'S STRIPS WILL BE GENERATED BY AI.
PLEASE ENJOY.
HELLO, FATHER!
HELLO, BRITISH CHILD!
YOU ARE WRITING ON YOUR WRITING DEVICE?
IS IT GOOD WRITING?
IT IS HILARIOUSLY NOT! I WRITE UNWELL!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Openings
5 Co. with a peacock logo
8 Junk email
12 Wrinkly fruit
13 Tic-tac-toe win
14 LBJ biographer Robert
15 Dorm alternative
16 Spanish dance
18 Likes
20 Incendiary crime
21 Praise in verse
22 La-la lead-in
23 Frost works
26 Loyal following
30 TiVo, for example
31 Numbered rd.
32 Petty peeve
33 Enthusiast
36 Casual wear
38 Sorority letter
39 Sheep's cry
40 Set — (schedule)
43 Pigeon variety
47 Showy displays
49 Thus
50 Words to a backstabber
51 Online chats, briefly
52 Fixes illegally
53 Banshee's cry
54 — Zedong
55 Approving cheers

DOWN
1 Nonsense
2 Taj Mahal site
3 Scheme
4 "Cheers," for one
5 Type of checking
6 Fluffy scarves
7 Bamboozle
8 Ornamental beetle
9 Frying needs
10 Jason's ship
11 Apollo 11 destination
17 Mend socks
19 Luggage tags, e.g.
22 — kwon do
23 Adobe file format
24 Eggs
25 East ender?
26 Consumer protection agcy.
27 Comedian Gasteyer
28 Go astray
29 UFO engineers
31 Brazilian city
34 Clever
35 Ellington's "Take — Train"
36 Painter Vermeer
37 Bistro, for one
39 Low-voiced singer
40 Not many
41 Facts and figures
42 Against
43 Disaster aid org.
44 Opera house solo
45 Rocker — Pop
46 Privation
48 Edge

Solution time: 22 mins.

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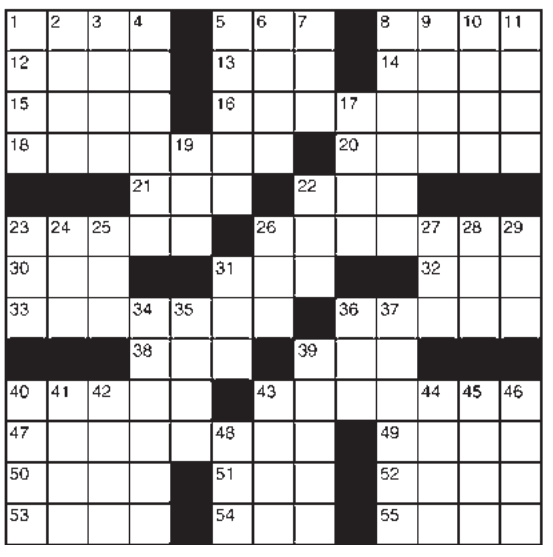
Yesterday's answer 5-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miranda Cosgrove, 31; Cate Blanchett, 55; Tim Roth, 63; George Lucas, 80.

Happy Birthday: Remember your purpose. Being the one to initiate change is necessary. Strive to find your peace and strength. Distance yourself from users, and pay more attention to what's important to you. Actions are the road to personal gratification. Don't let yourself down. Put a to-do list in place and start the personal cleansing process. Your numbers are 3, 10, 18, 27, 32, 35, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Revisit activities that put a smile on your face or passion in your heart and consider reintroducing such things into your life. An active lifestyle that encourages physical strength and a positive attitude will get you back on track and ready to conquer your dreams. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take the time to map out your best route. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you or cause you to second-guess what you want in your life. Take better care of yourself physically, and pour your energy into gathering information and making intelligent decisions. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't let anyone decide what's best for you. Mull over your options, size up what's involved and the time it will take, and press forward enthusiastically. It's time to call the shots; do not hand over the reins when control will help you reach your goal.✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Refuse to let emotional baggage weigh you down. Step out, participate and do your best to impact those you encounter throughout the day positively. You will receive insight and opportunity for your input and a clear indication regarding how someone feels. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stepping into the spotlight without preparation will slow you down. Preparation will turn the tables in your favor and help you recognize what's important to those you need support from to join your team. Rely on your intelligence and charm to win. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: A change may be necessary, but first, you must gather the data and consider your options. Knowledge is powerful, and putting everything in place before you make your pitch is essential to drum up support. Learn from experience. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Participation will lead to insight, personal growth and a sense of what you want to pursue. Don't let laziness set in when punctuality and putting muscle behind your plans will encourage healthy financial and physical opportunities. Set time aside to explore the possibilities. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Unusual people, places and pastimes will capture your attention. Be sure to take advantage of the chance to try something new or to meet people who can offer you a unique perspective on something that can add value to what you have to offer. 2 stars

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Domestic problems will surface if you ignore what's happening in your backyard. By keeping a close watch over what the people in your life are up to, you'll avoid being broadsided by an unexpected incident. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't let the little things get to you. Step out and enjoy a change of pace, scenery or lifestyle. What you discover will encourage you to revisit aspects of your life that are holding you back or bringing you down. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Pay attention to detail, what others say and do, and your direction and choices. Refrain from letting what others decide mislead or misguide you. Do your research and consider the emotional travel and educational time it will take to get where you want to go. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Embrace the moment and command attention. Shrug off anything weighing you down, and decide what's best for you. Take charge, make clear decisions and refuse to let anyone rain on your parade. The inspiration you give others will satisfy your soul. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed, compassionate and reliable. You are original and observant.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6				5	3		1	
		1	8		6	9		
2			7		9	6	5	
	7		6			3	8	1
			1	4	5			6
1			3		7		9	5
			5			2		
8	4				1	5	7	
		6	9	7	8			

Difficulty: ★★ 5/14

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	2	4	5	9	7	8	3	6
8	3	9	1	6	2	7	4	5
6	5	7	8	4	3	2	9	1
4	9	3	7	5	6	1	8	2
2	8	6	4	3	1	5	7	9
5	7	1	9	2	8	3	6	4
7	1	5	6	8	4	9	2	3
3	4	8	2	1	9	6	5	7
9	6	2	3	7	5	4	1	8

Difficulty: ★ 5/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LOVE MY DISHWASHER Solution: 5 letters

B	R	G	C	E	T	A	C	I	L	E	D	N	S	T
A	R	A	E	L	C	T	N	E	G	R	E	T	E	D
H	V	T	E	N	E	R	G	Y	A	H	A	M	L	I
C	A	Y	Y	H	S	A	W	I	C	C	P	I	B	S
S	P	A	R	K	L	E	N	T	K	E	Q	E	B	P
O	O	M	E	N	O	N	I	C	R	U	S	T	U	E
B	R	I	L	I	O	K	O	A	I	S	E	O	B	N
S	P	E	T	S	P	L	T	D	A	S	H	M	T	S
G	R	L	U	L	L	U	F	L	N	S	S	E	A	E
M	R	E	C	F	R	I	G	I	D	A	I	R	E	R
A	A	I	T	E	I	S	R	O	O	R	D	Y	H	J
E	C	P	M	A	H	S	P	U	C	C	Y	C	L	E
T	K	P	O	E	W	O	A	O	R	E	M	I	T	T
S	T	A	R	T	D	A	O	L	O	D	P	A	N	S
Y	V	A	E	H	S	K	S	E	G	N	O	P	S	G

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Bosch, Bubbles, Clean, Clear, Cups, Cutlery, Cycle, Delicate, Detergent, Dishes, Dispenser, Drain, Drying, Empty, Energy, Frigidaire, Full, Glass, Grime, Heat, Heavy, Hydro, Jets, Kitchen, Liquid, Load, Lock, Maytag, Miele, Pans, Pods, Pots, Rack, Remote, Rinse, Sink, Soak, Soap, Sparkle, Sponge, Spoon, Stack, Start, Steam, Steps, Temperature, Timer, Vapor, Wash, Water, Whirlpool

Yesterday's Answer: Judgments

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 62 through 77, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Nuggets tie Timberwolves with 2nd straight road win in Game 4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Denver Nuggets were far from done after dropping the first two games of the Western Conference semifinals at home in humbling fashion.

Nikola Jokic scored 16 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter, and Aaron Gordon had 27 points on 11-for-12 shooting to propel the Nuggets to a series-tying 115-107 victory over the Timberwolves on Sunday night in Game 4 .

"It's just like a laser-sharp focus," Gordon said, "and a surgical execution."

Jamal Murray had 12 of his 19 points in the third quarter for the derfending champion Nuggets in a momentum carryover from his buzzer-beating swish from behind half court, and the Wolves only had the deficit below double digits in the second half for a total of 3:19.

Anthony Edwards scored 44 points in another spectacular performance for Minnesota that set the franchise postseason record, shooting 16 for 25. But despite a 42-31 rebounding edge, the Wolves were beaten at their own game for the second straight time at home.

"Game 2 definitely woke us up," Murray said. "We realized we can't hold ourselves back."

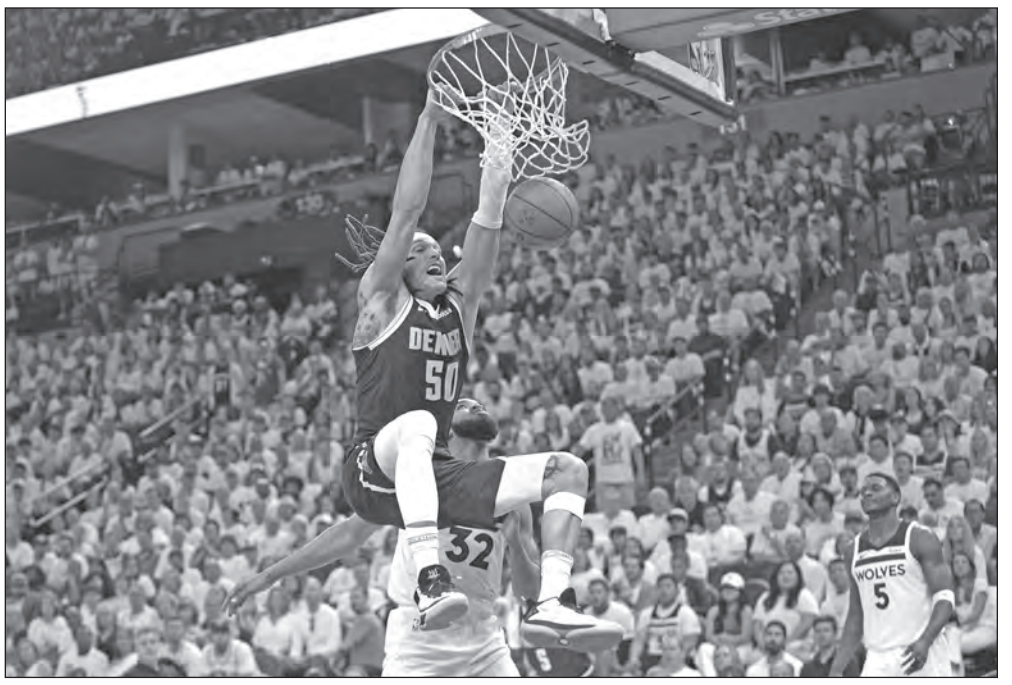
The series goes back to Denver for Game 5 on Tuesday night.

"This is a series. We won two games, but we didn't think it was going to be easy," Edwards said.

Mike Conley had 15 points, Karl-Anthony Towns went just 5 for 18 from the field for 13 points and 12 rebounds, and Rudy Gobert came alive late to score 11 points and grab 14 rebounds. Still, the Wolves were on their heels at home for a second straight game.

The Nuggets scored eight straight points in 20 seconds to close the first half, highlighted by Murray's improbable heave.

Gordon didn't miss until there was 3:39 to go. Most importantly, he took the lead in hounding Towns and even took some turns trying to slow Edwards.



AP

Denver Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon (50) dunks during the second half of Game 4 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Sunday, May 12, 2024, in Minneapolis.

"The shot-making, the play-making, the physicality, the defense on two All-Stars, so much is being asked of him right now," coach Mike Malone said. "What you love about Aaron Gordon since Day 1, when he put on that Nuggets uniform, It's always been about the Nuggets first. He is truly selfless."

The three off days between Games 2 and 3 did the Wolves no good, yielding a 27-point defeat after which coach Chris Finch declared them feeling "fat and lazy" after all the fawning near and far for their performance in Denver. They needed to reintroduce their edge right away to keep the crowd consistently roaring, and Edwards dutifully led that response.

The 2020 first overall draft pick scored nine points in the first four-plus minutes before Murray even touched the ball, with Gordon and Jokic sharing the point guard duties to reduce the burden on Murray and his strained left calf muscle.

After a quiet Game 3, Edwards was on a mission to will the Wolves to win, as the Nuggets fully expected. Their loading up on him in the lane wasn't enough, as he hit from everywhere on the court, but the rest of the Wolves frequently failed to make the Nuggets pay for leaving them open.

They missed tip-ins at the rim, not just corner 3s. Towns missed his first seven shots, and while his effort and defense never suffered, he was a mess trying to get the ball to the basket, rarely drawing the fouls he argued for.

"It's unfortunate that on Mother's Day I have a shooting performance like that," Towns said. "But it's the way the game goes. It's not a fun game sometimes."

The Wolves showed off their league-best defense and their enviable depth in the first two games, but the Nuggets copied and pasted that formula on the road. When their secondary scorers and bench players are hitting their jumpers, they're awfully tough to beat.

Gordon, Justin Holiday (10 points), Christian Braun (11 points) and Reggie Jackson (six points) went a combined 8 for 11 from 3-point range. They fueled a 26-4 run that bridged the first and second quarters, and all but five points on that surge came with the four-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year Gobert resting on the bench.

"They are doing all the dirty, small things that nobody notices," Jokic said.

PACERS 121, KNICKS 89

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—After three games that went down to the wire, the Indiana Pacers were off and running early in Game 4.

The short-handed New York Knicks just didn't have the legs to keep up.

Tyrese Haliburton scored 20 points, T.J. McConnell finished with 15 points and 10 assists and the Pacers routed the Knicks 121-89, using the third-largest playoff victory in the franchise's NBA history to even the series at 2-2.

Game 5 will be played Tuesday at Madison Square Garden.

"All we did was do our job," Haliburton said after finishing with six rebounds, five assists and four 3-pointers. "When you're at home, you have to protect home court, so we did our job. We understand the magnitude of Game 5 and we'll be prepared for that one."

The first three games all came down to key plays in the final three minutes.

Sunday's provided a different twist. Indiana led by as much as 43—the largest deficit any playoff team has faced in these playoffs—and fell just short of matching its two largest NBA postseason victories, a 34-point blowout over Cleveland in April 2018 and a 33-point win over the Lakers in the 2000 NBA Finals.

And while Indiana could seemingly do nothing wrong, the Knicks couldn't do anything right.

Pascal Siakam and Obi Toppin each scored 14 points, Aaron Nesmith grabbed 12 rebounds and the Pacers shot 56.8% from the field, 45.2% on 3-pointers and erased their only deficit of the game, 2-0, just 44 seconds into the game.

The Knicks, who again played without four key players because of injuries, looked fatigued.

Alec Burks finished with 20 points for New York. Brunson, who entered the day with a league-best 34.6 points per game in the postseason, scored only 18 on a day the Knicks shot 33.7% from the field, 18.9% on 3s and flirted with posting the worst playoff loss in franchise history. The record, 41, came at Chicago in April 1991.

Brunson wasn't the only one struggling. Donte DiVincenzo, who had 35 points in Game 3, scored just seven on Sunday. The two guards were a combined 9 of 30 from the field and 1 of 11 on 3s.

"We can talk about fresher legs and you can give us all the pity we want," Brunson said. "Yeah, we're short-handed, but that doesn't matter right now. We have what we have. So there's no we're short-handed, there's no excuse. We lose, we lose. That's what that was."

Once again, the Pacers fed off the energy of a nearly full Gainbridge Fieldhouse, where they are now 5-0 with Game 6 coming back to Indianapolis on Friday. Those watching from courtside included Indiana-born singer John Mellencamp, Indianapolis 500 winners Scott Dixon and Dario Franchitti and former Pacers stars Dale Davis and Derrick McKey.

What they witnessed was the most dominant performance in the series.

Without forwards OG Anunoby, Bojan Bogdanovic and Julius Randle as well as center Mitchell Robinson, New York produced a 14-point first quarter and a 41-point first half—its two lowest totals through the first 10 playoff games this season.

A predictable result ensued.

"We started slowly, they made shots, got a big lead and it snowballed," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "I thought we missed some wide-open shots early that probably took some energy out of us and we can't allow that to happen."

The Pacers did not make that mistake.

Haliburton's first 3 gave Indiana the lead for good at 5-2 and the Pacers followed with a decisive 29-7 first-quarter spurt that made it 34-11.

New York never recovered. It cut the deficit to 36-19 early in the second, only to see Indiana answer with 10 straight points before extending the halftime margin to 69-41.

Things only got worse in the second half.

Indian led 101-63 after three quarters, a deficit so large both teams rested their starters the entire fourth quarter. Indiana's 43-point lead in the fourth quarter marked the third time this season it's led by at least that margin and the first time New York trailed by that much since Dec. 5, 2019, a span of 388 games.

But to the Pacers, this was not a moment to celebrate; just a step on a journey they hope to continue when they return to New York.

"We did what we needed to do, protect home court," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "I'm not going to get into a dissertation about how great we are as a team because we're only halfway to our goal. We've got to understand that and have a great level of humility for what's coming Tuesday and be braced for it."

Hawks win NBA lottery in year where there's no clear choice for No. 1 pick

CHICAGO (AP)—The Atlanta Hawks came in facing slim odds. They walked away with their biggest victory in years.

The Hawks won the NBA draft lottery on Sunday, landing the No. 1 pick and a potential cornerstone player in a year where there's no clear-cut choice.

"At least I can go home and tell my wife on Mother's Day, 'Hey, at least we won the lottery,'" general manager Landry Fields said. "That's her present. Yeah, there we go."

The Hawks hit the jackpot despite just 3% odds after finishing 10th in the Eastern Conference at 36-46. They dropped their final six regular-season games and lost to the Chicago Bulls in the first round of the play-in tournament.

"It was a shock," said Fields, who grinned ear to ear when deputy commissioner Mark Tatum announced the Hawks as the winners. "When I first saw that it wasn't us between 10 and 12, that launched us into the top four. I was like, all right, we've got a real shot at this thing. A bit of surprise, but a lot of excitement."

The Hawks haven't won a postseason series since a surprising run to the Eastern Conference finals in 2021. They got knocked out in the first round in 2022 and 2023.

Atlanta has some big decisions to make this offseason, including whether to break up its backcourt of Trae Young and Dejounte Murray. Fields can build with the No. 1 pick—assuming he keeps it—though it's not clear who will be taken first after Victor Wembanyama was the obvious choice for San Antonio last year.

"Our group has been fantastic," Fields said. "There's a whole lot of trust. They've put in the work. We'll kind of lean into our process and take it from there."

Washington, Houston, San Antonio and Detroit rounded out the top five. The draft is June 26-27 in Brooklyn.

Houston coach Ime Udoka was thrilled to get the third pick after the Rockets went 41-41 and missed the playoffs for the fourth straight year.

"Pleasant surprise when you move up the way that we did," he said. "I feel like there's a lot of qualified candidates out there."

Washington and Detroit had the best chances to land the top pick at 14%. Only four teams have won the lottery with slimmer odds than Atlanta, with the biggest longshot being Orlando at 1.52% in 1993. The Magic orchestrated a blockbuster draft night trade with Golden State, sending the rights to Chris Webber to the Warriors for the rights to Penny Hardaway along with three future first-round picks.

Darvish delivers seven dominant innings as Padres blank Dodgers

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Yu Darvish gave up two hits in seven dominant innings to lead San Diego to a victory over Los Angeles.

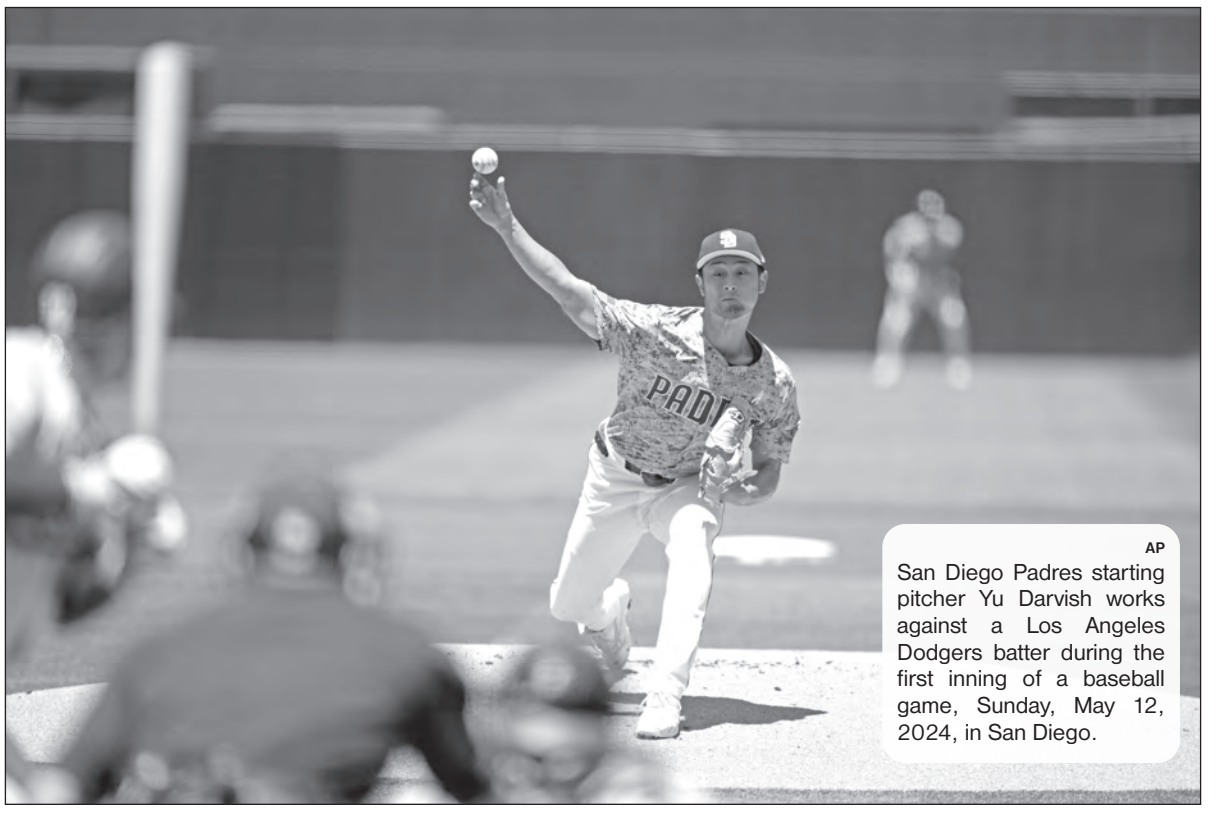
Fernando Tatis Jr., Jake Cronenworth and Xander Bogaerts hit solo home runs for the Padres, who have won five of the eight games against the Dodgers this season.

The Dodgers dropped two of the three games in the series after a seven-game winning streak.

Darvish (3-1) struck out seven and walked one in a sterling performance that lowered his ERA to 2.43.

Dodgers starter Walker Buehler (0-1), pitching in his second game this season, had an ineffective and abbreviated outing. He gave up two runs, five hits, two walks and hit a batter in 3 1/3 innings.

Buehler surrendered consecutive homers to Tatis and Cronenworth in the first inning for a 2-0 Padres lead. Bogaerts' solo homer came in the fifth off reliever Gus Varland to give the Padres a 4-0 lead.



AP

San Diego Padres starting pitcher Yu Darvish works against a Los Angeles Dodgers batter during the first inning of a baseball game, Sunday, May 12, 2024, in San Diego.

TWINS 5, BLUE JAYS 1

TORONTO (AP)—Carlos Santana hit a three-run home run, Bailey Ober matched his career high by striking out 10 over 6 1/3 shutout innings and the Minnesota Twins won for the 17th time in 20 games by beating the Toronto Blue Jays 5-1 on Sunday.

The Twins have won six consecutive series for the first time since September 2010.

Santana homered for the third straight game north of the U.S. border, extending Minnesota's streak of games in Toronto with at least one home run to 20. The Twins homered in 21 straight games at Kansas City between July 30, 1998, and Aug. 25, 2001.

Max Kepler added a two-run double for the Twins, extending his career-best hitting streak to 14 games.

RED SOX 3, NATIONALS 2

BOSTON (AP)—Ceddanne Rafaela had a two-run double after center fielder Victor Robles dropped a routine fly for an error during Boston's three-run second inning, as they held off Washington to take the series.

Behind a good start from Brayan Bello (4-1) and scoreless work from four relievers, the Red Sox won their second straight after losing the opener Friday.

Eddie Rosario homered for the second consecutive day for the Nationals, a two-run shot. Robles also had a base-running blunder that took them out a potential big inning and lined to left with two runners on to end the seventh.

ASTROS 9, TIGERS 3

DETROIT (AP)—Justin Verlander dominated his former team and Kyle Tucker homered as Houston beat Detroit at Comerica Park.

Verlander (2-1) pitched seven scoreless innings, allowing two hits while striking out eight. He now has 3,365 career strikeouts, two behind former teammate and friendly rival Max Scherzer for 11th on the all-time list and six behind Greg Maddux for 10th.

Mauricio Dubón had four hits for Houston and Jake Meyers went 3 for 3 with three RBIs despite not entering the game until the seventh inning.

YANKEES 10, RAYS 6

ST. PETERSBURG. Fla. (AP)—Jose Trevino hit two of New York's five homers, Luis Gil went six scoreless innings as they recovered after nearly blowing a six-run lead to beat Tampa Bay.

Trevino hit a two-run shot in the third and a solo drive in a four-run eighth that put the Yankees ahead 10-5. Struggling Gleyber Torres hit his second homer of the season, a three-run shot earlier in the inning.

Aaron Judge added his 10th home run of the season and Jahmai Jones hit his first major league homer for the Yankees, who took two of three from the Rays to return to a season high-tying 12-games over .500.

GUARDIANS 7, WHITE SOX 0

CHICAGO (AP)—David Fry hit a two-run homer and Andr√©s Gim√©nez lined a solo shot in Cleveland's three-run fourth inning, as they blanked Chicago to end a three-game losing streak.

Logan Allen tossed six scoreless innings to help Cleveland salvage the finale of a four-game series in Chicago and remain in first place in the AL Central. The left-hander allowed six hits, walked one and struck out three.

Nick Sandlin, Hunter Gaddis and Sam Hentges followed with a hitless inning each. Chicago's season-high four-game winning streak ended and the White Sox were shut out for the 10th time this season, most in the majors.

CARDINALS 4, BREWERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Michael Siani doubled home the go-ahead run, Paul Goldschmidt homered to break out of his slump and St. Louis rallied to beat Milwaukee and snap a seven-game skid.

Goldschmidt had gone 1 of 34 in May until he led off the fifth inning with just his third homer of the season, a drive to center off Bryse Wilson. Goldschmidt also hit a game-tying, two-out RBI single in the sixth against Jared Koenig as the Cardinals erased an early three-run deficit.

DIAMONDBACKS 9, ORIOLES 2

BALTIMORE (AP)—Zac Gallen pitched six solid innings, and Arizona beat an unusually sloppy Baltimore for their first victory at Camden Yards since 2007.

The Orioles allowed three unearned runs, plus several others that were earned but at least somewhat related to defensive mistakes. Jake McCarthy homered for the Diamondbacks and Adley Rutschman went deep for Baltimore.

Gallen (5-2) took a no-hitter into the fifth and ultimately allowed two runs and four hits. He struck out four with two walks.

CUBS 5, PIRATES 4, 10 INNINGS

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Cody Bellinger hit a go-ahead single before Patrick Wisdom added insurance with a home run in the 10th inning, lifting Chicago to a win over the Pittsburgh for a series victory.

Bellinger led off by dribbling a ball through the left side of the infield off Aroldis Chapman (0-3), scoring automatic runner Seiya Suzuki before getting caught in a rundown between first and second. Wisdom drove a two-out sinker, the seventh pitch of the at-bat, 412 feet into the center-field bushes.

MARLINS 7, PHILLIES 6, 10 INNINGS

MIAMI (AP)—Emmanuel Rivera hit a game-winning pinch-hit single in the 10th inning and Miami beat Philadelphia.

Rivera's hard grounder deflected off the glove of Phillies reliever Gregory Soto (0-1) and into right field, scoring automatic runner Nick Fortes from second.

Jazz Chisholm Jr. doubled and tripled while Josh Bell homered for the Marlins, who snapped a five-game losing skid and began Sunday with a major league-worst 10-31 record.

Anthony Bender (1-2) pitched a scoreless top of the 10th around two walks.

Down 6-3, Philadelphia tied it on Edmundo Sosa's two-run triple and Brandon Marsh's sacrifice fly against Miami reliever Andrew Nardi in the sixth.

ROCKIES 3, RANGERS 1

DENVER (AP)—Converted reliever Ty Blach pitched five solid innings in his second start this season, Ezequiel Tovar homered and Colorado beat Texas to complete a three-game series sweep of the defending World Series champions.

It was the first time the Rangers, losers of four of their last five, have been swept this season. Their offence was also stifled by three double plays, two sparkling defensive plays by third baseman Ryan McMahon and a run-saving catch against the center field wall by Brenton Doyle for the final out of the fifth inning.

Doyle also drew a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the eighth inning for the Rockies' final run.

The sweep by the Rockies, who have won a season high four in a row, was their first since May 2-4, 2023, against Milwaukee.

ROYALS 4, ANGELS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Seth Lugo racked up a career-high 12 strikeouts and allowed one run over eight strong innings, and Hunter Renfroe had a two-run single against his former team in Kansas City victory over Los Angeles.

Freddie Fermin and Michael Massey also had RBIs during the Royals' four-run fourth inning, giving Lugo (6-1) plenty of support as Kansas City took three of four from the Angels.

Willie Calhoun had an RBI double in the sixth and a solo homer in the ninth for the Halos, who have lost 17 of 23 with a major league-worst 14 players on the injured list. Los Angeles has lost all six of its series at the Big A this season, failing to win consecutive home games at any point.

Lugo allowed five hits while continuing his outstanding start to his first season with the Royals, winning for the AL-best sixth time in eight starts and lowering his ERA to 1.66.

MARINERS 8, ATHLETICS 4

SEATTLE(AP)— Julio Rodriguez and Mitch Garver both hit two-run home runs, Luis Castillo allowed two runs over six strong innings, and Seattle beat Oakland.

Seattle rebounded to take two of three games from the A's after the Mariners lost their first series in nearly a month earlier this week in Minnesota. And they did it thanks to the long ball.

Rodriguez's homer was just his second of the season and his first at T-Mobile Park in Seattle's 22nd home game. Rodr√≠guez hit a 2-2 pitch from Oakland starter Alex Wood out to straightaway center field in the second inning for a two-run shot that gave Seattle a 5-0 lead. The homer had an exit velocity of 109 m.p.h. and travelled an estimated 409 feet.

Rodriguez nearly homered in his next at-bat in the fifth inning, doubling off the top of the wall, but jogged home when Garver hit his fifth of the season to give Seattle a 7-1 lead. Garver also had a two-out RBI single in the first inning.

GIANTS 6, REDS 5, 10 INNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Casey Schmitt hit a walk-off double in the 10th inning and San Francisco beat Cincinnati.

After the Reds failed to score in the top of the 10th off Giants reliever Luke Jackson (1-1), Schmitt's first hit of the season was a two-out ground-rule double to left-center field off Emilio Pagan (2-3), scoring automatic runner Luis Matos.

Mike Ford evened the score at 5-5 for Cincinnati with a solo homer in the eighth after the Reds trimmed the deficit to a run in the seventh.

The Giants had six hits in the fifth to rally from a 3-0 deficit, including a two-run homer by LaMonte Wade Jr. to tie the game. Heliot Ramos gave the Giants the lead with an RBI single, and then scored on an infield hit by Blake Sabol when Elly De La Cruz's throw skipped past first and down the right-field line.

METS 4, BRAVES 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Brandon Nimmo shook off an injury and came off the bench to hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning that gave New York a victory over Atlanta.

Pete Alonso had two RBIs and the Mets avoided a three-game sweep, a day after they were held hitless by three Atlanta pitchers until there were two outs in the ninth.

Batting leadoff in Nimmo's place, DJ Stewart singled on the first pitch from Braves starter Bryce Elder this time. Nimmo didn't start after exiting Saturday's game with discomfort on his right side, but he entered as a pinch runner in the seventh and stayed in to play left field.

Jarred Kelenic homered for Atlanta against the team that drafted him sixth overall and then traded him. Marcell Ozuna's second tiebreaking single of the night gave the Braves a 3-2 lead in the eighth.

Nadal reconsidering status for French Open after lopsided loss in Rome

ROME (AP)—Fifteen days before he is scheduled to play in what will likely be his final French Open, Rafael Nadal is so unsatisfied with his level of tennis that he's still debating whether or not to go to Roland Garros.

Nadal's surgically repaired hip and his 37-year-old legs didn't provide him with the necessary means to be competitive enough on Saturday as ninth-ranked Hubert Hurkacz overwhelmed the 22-time Grand Slam champion on the Spaniard's beloved clay for a 6-1, 6-3 victory in the third round of the Italian Open.

It was Nadal's first match against a top-10 player in 1½ years and he couldn't have been more disappointed.

AP

Rafael Nadal, of Spain, leaves after losing his match against Hubert Hurkacz, of Poland, at the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome, Saturday, May 11, 2024.

"Tough day for me in all ways because I felt more ready than what I showed," Nadal said. "I am little bit more unpredictable today, not playing enough for the last two years. Too many doubts."

In terms of games won—just four—it was the most lopsided loss for Nadal on clay in 21 years, since also winning only four games against Gaston Gaudio in Hamburg in 2003 when he was only 16.

Now Nadal will need to dig deeper on the practice court if wants to be competitive one last time at the French Open, where he is the record 14-time champion. Roland Garros starts on May 26.

Nadal said he had two options for Paris.

"One is to say, 'OK, I am not ready, I am not playing enough well," Nadal said. "Another is accept how I am today and work the proper way to try to be in a different way in two weeks.

"The decision, as you can imagine, is not clear in my mind today. But if I have to say what's my feeling and if my mind is closer one way or the other way, I going to say be in Roland Garros and try my best," Nadal added. "Physically I have some issues, but not probably yet enough to say not playing in the most important event of my tennis career."

Nadal is still regaining his fitness after missing nearly all of 2023 with a hip injury that required surgery,

"Let's see what's going on, how I feel myself mentally tomorrow, after tomorrow, and in one week," Nadal said. "If I feel ready, I going to try to be there and fight for the things that I have been fighting the last 15 years, if now seems impossible."

Against the big-serving Hurkacz, appeared slow at times and lacked the lucidness to finish off points.

Twice in the first set, Nadal missed drop shot attempts to hand Hurkacz breaks of his serve.

Then early in the second set, Nadal lacked oomph on a backhand volley, allowing Hurkacz to reply with a forehand up the line that clipped the net and landed in for another break.

On the changeovers, Nadal sat hunched over, sweat dripping from his headband and deep in thought for solutions that he couldn't find.

Nadal has indicated this will be his final season on tour and fans inside Campo Centrale tried to encourage the record 10-time Rome champion with chants of "Ole Ole Ole, Ra-fa, Ra-fa."

Burrow is throwing again as Bengals' franchise QB rehabs his surgically repaired wrist

CINCINNATI (AP)—Joe Burrow threw some crisp passes in a team workout Tuesday and said rehabbing his surgically repaired right wrist is still a work in progress.

The Bengals quarterback was cleared to throw about a month ago, but hasn't been cleared for contact yet. He hopes to be fully ready to go by training camp.

"I felt good the last couple of days," the 27-year-old Burrow said. "I don't ever know how it's going to feel until I wake up the next morning, but I was encouraged by the last couple of days for sure."

Burrow was lost for the season when he suffered a torn ligament in his right wrist in the 10th game, a loss to Baltimore on Nov. 16 that dropped the Bengals' record to 5-5. He had surgery on his wrist Nov. 27.

Backup Jake Browning led Cincinnati to a 4-3 record the rest of the way and the team missed the playoffs for the first time in three seasons. The Bengals finished 9-8, last in the AFC North.

Burrow said uncertainty has been the most difficult part of rehab.

"Whenever you have an injury to your throwing side, you're never quite sure how it's going to turn out at the end," he said. "But I'm in a good spot. I'm happy with where I'm at, and I'm going to continue to get better."

Burrow knows the drill when it comes to rehab. In his rookie year in 2020, he tore up his knee while being sacked in Week 11 against Washington. He finished rehab just in time for the start of the 2021 season.

Appendicitis caused him to miss all of training camp in 2022. On the second day of camp in 2023, Burrow strained a calf muscle. He didn't miss any games, but the injury limited his mobility in the early part of the season.

He knows enough from the previous injuries not to push himself so hard that it's going to end up being detrimental to his recovery.

"I need to first off try to be out there for training camp. Get as many reps as I can with the guys," he said. "I'm going to be smart about it. You know, if I need a break, I need to break. The wrist maybe it's going to hurt sometimes. And I'm going to be honest with myself about how my body is feeling, maybe a little more cautious than I have been in years past. So that's kind of been something that's been on my mind for the last couple of months."

BASA

From page 16

singles brought home runners in scoring position and didn't let them go to waste. When the dust settled, Tuturamz had a 16-10 lead.

Peliliu relied on the long ball up to this point and Jude Dickinson and Ben Hocog went on to hit one more each in the fourth to get within five, 13-18. However, Peliliu could only score one more in the fifth from Cartfield Sablan and one more in the second by Mark Flores for a 16-18 final.

For Tokahao, they won by one run, 6-5, over Hagu La'mun.

At the top of the sixth, Hagu La'mun's Richard Quitugua tied the game up, 5-5, but a homer by Tony Benavente later scored the crucial run Tokahao needed to be up by one, 6-5.

Tokahao held on to win as their pitcher Marco Peter retired Hagu La'mun's lineup in the seventh as they left the winning run on base.

In other results, Wazzup beat the Redmen up, 18-12.

A 9-run third inning by Wazzup allowed them to have a lead throughout the game. All Redmen could do was play catch up and chip away at the lead, but to no avail.

Wazzup's lineup exploded again in the sixth as they added five more runs, then added one more in the seventh from a homer by Derek Aguon. The Redmen's Sky Omelan hit up a solo dinger in their last at-bat, but it was too little too late as the rest of the lineup failed to produce.

The Man Amigos then won in another nail biter against Asahi, 13-12.

The Man Amigos' top and middle of the lineup's productivity was the crucial component to their win as cleanup hitter Manny Sablan hit a two-run homer in the sixth to put them up, 13-7. Asahi then said "hold my beer" as they scored five runs in their at-bat to get within one, 12-13.

However, Man Amigos' pitching did their job and sealed the deal as they held down Asahi in the last inning and came away with a one-run win.

Lastly, Sufa outscored Saipal, 14-2. Sufa's runs were scattered throughout the game, while Saipal's two runs came in the fourth. Sufa's Audie Maratita, hit three homers—two grand slams and a two-run homerun, while Pat Deleon Guerrero went yard with two 2-run dingers himself.

Last Sunday, there were no games in observance of Mother's Day. Games will resume this Sunday, May 19.

KANOA

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until the 19th minute when Kanoa's Aubrey White found the back of the net and tied it up, 1-1. It was the beginning of an influx of goals for Kanoa as they found their groove.

Ye Lynn Ha added one in the 23rd minute to take the lead, 2-1, for Kanoa. Before MP United could reply, Beatrice Gross tacked on another one for a 3-1 game in the 26th minute. MP United then quickly responded a minute later as Cassie Regan scored their second goal for still a close 2-3 game.

However, White doubled the lead once again in the 29th after the team's fourth goal in the first half alone for a 4-2 matchup.

MP United tried to regroup and stop the bleeding by putting up tougher defenses, but Kanoa's offense opened up the floodgates and it was too late to stop them from scoring more. Later in the 36th minute, White completed the hat-trick, and was immediately followed up by a goal two minutes later by teammate Elikristiana Iglecias to lead, 6-2.

Gross went on to complete her own hat-trick as she scored the team's 7th and 8th goal within three minutes of each other. MP United conceded as the lead was too big to catch up to, and handed the championship to Kanoa.

With Gross, White, Ha, and Iglecias were Julie Chavez, Joselynn Atalig, Miley Mafnas, Faith Arriola, Rhodalyn Zandueta, Alejandra Manabat, Phynix Nogis, Quiara Sanchez, and Hayven Moteisu.

In the boys division, Kanoa won in extra time after they were tied up, 1-1, with Latte in regulation.

Kanoa's arsenal of strikers dug their cleats in and went to work as all five goals went through to take the championship.

Adrian Lubao, Christian Negara, Akoni Matsumoto, Izeah Jolo, and Paul Lizama scored for Kanoa, while Latte missed one out of four shots at the net. Mark Costales, Monico Claridades, and Zhi Xiang Lin scored the three goals for Latte.

In regulation, Kanoa had the 1-0 advantage in the 11th minute after a goal by Lizama, but Latte's Lin tied it up in the 29th. The match was evenly matched throughout as regulation ended in a stalemate, with Kanoa eventually coming in clutch with their penalties.

On Kanoa's roster with Lubao, Negara, Matsumoto, Jolo, and Lizama were Zuriel Abejo, David Xing, D'artagnan Enerio, Maximus Taitano, Tyler Omelau, John Quidato, Rooney Gil, Jayson Tagabuel, Arstin Tagabuel, Yuxi Lu, Aiden Wesley, Taher Shakir, and Eamon Tang.

Results of the U14 and U12 championships will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

SBL

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continued to show no mercy as they picked up where they left off. They've already scored 10 by the third inning, and they went on to add three more from Frankie Lifoifoi, Mario Salas, and Kyle Hocog for a 13-0 lead.

The Bears finally notched one run against the Padres' pitching staff after a double by Anthony Dizon in the fourth, but that was all they could do.

The game was called off shortly from mercy ruling after the Padres went on to score three more runs from Ben Jones, Jonah Flores, and Darion Jones. This brought the Bears record down to two losses and no wins, while the Padres are on the opposite end with two wins and no losses.

In the battle of undefeated teams, the Bandits took on Sandlot last Thursday.

The Bandits came out victorious and boosted their undefeated record to three wins.

SBL STANDINGS

Bandits	3	0
Falcons	2	0
Padres	2	0
Braves	2	1
Royals	2	1
Sandlot	2	1
Cardinals	2	1
D-9er's	1	0
Bears	0	2
White Sox	0	2
Blue Jays	0	2
Natives	0	3
Blue Shark	0	3

Both teams' offenses were alive and as hot as Saipan's summer as the final score was 17-10.

This brought the Sandlot down to a 2-1 record.

Last Wednesday, the defending champions Cardinals secured their second win for a 2-1 record after they defeated the Natives, 19-4. The Natives have yet to win with three losses.

Nuggets tie Timberwolves with 2nd straight road win in Game 4

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Kanoa FC clinches U17 girls/boys titles

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club's U17 girls and U17 boys teams clinched the championships in their respective divisions after the finals of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The girls went full throttle against MP United FC and won, 8-2.

Despite an early start by MP United's Addalee Taflinger who got them on board just one minute in, Kanoa's strikers could not be contained later in the match.

MP United enjoyed their one-goal lead

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NMIFA

Kanoa's U17 girls championship team poses for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

NMIFA

Kanoa's U17 boys championship team poses for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Tuturamz, Tokahao slip past foes in BASA

RUSSELLE VICENTE

File photo shows a Tuturamz outfielder catching a fly ball during one of their games in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association league master's division at the Dandan Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Tuturamz and Tokahao slipped past their foes in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association league master's division last May 5 at the Dandan Softball Field.

Tuturamz had a huge third inning which was the difference-maker in the game as they won, 18-16 over Peliliu. The third inning was a run frenzy as they scored 14 consecutive runs.

Henry Reyes hit the lone homerun in the inning, but RBI doubles and

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NEXT LEVE MEDIA CNMI

File photo shows a Padres base runner sliding safely into third base during their game against the Blue Jays in the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Baseball Field.

Padres, Bandits still undefeated in SBL

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Padres and Bandits are still undefeated after their win last Friday and Thursday in the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Padres won their second game in a row after they pummeled the Bears, 16-1, in the continuation of their rain-delayed game last Friday.

The Bears stood no chance against the Padres after the rain ended their game, 0-10, at the third inning last May 1, but that didn't stop them from trying.

The Padres, however,

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